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From: Westlake, Libby

Sent: Thursday, July 5, 2018 9:56 AM

To: Best, Carolyn; Adams, Alexandra; Slack, Cora; Crock, Sarah; Lenzo, Mike; Kasych, Shawn; Lundregan, Scott; Myers, Marisa; Donelon, Terry; Baker, Dan;

Young, Brad; Snider, Grace; Garczyk, Cameron; Sarko, Alyssa

Subject: Smith Clips for 7/5/2018

SMITH CLIPS



LAWMAKERS UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE FUTURE OF RIGHT TO WORK BILLS IN POST-JANUS OHIO

As the dust was still settling on the last voting session day for the Ohio House of Representatives and Senate, leaders of both chambers fielded questions about another major piece of news occurring while they were busy passing legislation; the Janus v. AFSCME decision made by the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS).



SMITH APPLAUDS BILL PASSAGE PROTECTING PASTORS, CLEAN LAKE PLAN

Speaker of the Ohio House Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) has applauded the passage of Senate Bill 299, or the "Clean Lake 2020 Plan," and House Bill 36, or the "Ohio Pastor Protection Act," by the Ohio House of Representatives.

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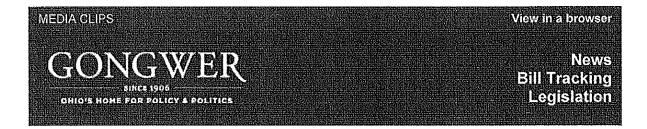
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Libby Henson

From: Gongwer News Service Sent: Friday, July 6, 2018 8:26 AM

To: Snider, Grace

Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Friday, July 6



NEWS

Payday loans, guns among stalled issues at Ohio Statehouse (Associated Press, 7/6/2018)

Status of 2,300 former ECOT students unknown, Associated Press reports (Associated Press, 7/6/2018)

Why is PG Sittenfeld raising money? (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/6/2018)

Why Ohio keeps voting on odd, complicated issues (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/6/2018)

Ohio drug treatment and rehabilitation amendment could be on November ballot (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/6/2018)

Ohio Libertarians seek a return to the ballot this year (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/6/2018)

Right-to-work group demands Ohio stop collecting union dues from some state workers (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/6/2018)

What medical conditions can be treated with medical marijuana in Ohio? (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/6/2018)

Democrat Danny O'Connor launches ad linking himself to ... John Kasich? (Columbus Dispatch, 7/6/2018)

DeWine says hands tied on pursuing ECOT -- until trial-court ruling (Columbus Dispatch, 7/6/2018)

Ohio Libertarians submit petition forms to regain minor-party status (Columbus Dispatch, 7/6/2018)

Ohio native Andrew Wheeler, former coal lobbyist, is new EPA leader (Columbus Dispatch, 7/6/2018)

Trump says he doesn't believe allegations against Jim Jordan; new victim emerges (Columbus Dispatch, 7/6/2018)

Congressman Jim Jordan knew about sex abuse at OSU, former wrestlers say (Dayton Daily News, 7/6/2018)

Medical marijuana in Ohio: 8 key questions answered as the program nears (Dayton Daily News, 7/6/2018)

Ohio lawmakers respond to EPA chief resignation (Dayton Daily News, 7/6/2018)

Local dog breeders, retailers react to new anti-puppy-mill law (Toledo Blade, 7/6/2018)

Two Ballot Campaigns Spend Holiday Collecting Signatures (WOSU Public Media, 7/6/2018)

EDITORIALS

Editorial: Statehouse security should be applied evenly to all (Columbus Dispatch, 7/6/2018)

YYAAAAA TAALA KAALA KAALA

Richard Cordray's Nazi analogy was an overreach (Toledo Blade, 7/6/2018)

Slavery in Ohio (Toledo Blade, 7/6/2018)

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From: Westlake, Libby

Sent: Friday, July 6, 2018 8:41 AM

To: Westlake, Libby

Subject: E-Clips for 7/6/2018

HOUSE E-CLIPS

7/6/2018



OHIO UNSURE OF STATUS OF 2,300 STUDENTS FROM CLOSED E-SCHOOL

Many of the students enrolled in Ohio's largest online charter school when it closed in January have transferred to other schools, but state officials don't know what happened with about 2,300 students.

OHIO-NATIVE ANDREW WHEELER, FORMER COAL LOBBYIST, IS NEW EPA LEADER

The new leader of the Environmental Protection Agency is a former coal industry lobbyist who helped lead an industry fight against regulations that protect Americans' health and address climate change.

The Columbus Dispatch

Ohio's Greatest Online Newspaper

DEWINE SAYS HANDS TIED ON PURSUING ECOT -- UNTIL TRIAL-COURT RULING

Responding to critics questioning why it did not take action against ECOT founder Bill Lager years ago, the office of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine says its hands were legally tied until a lower court ruling in March.

OHIO LIBERTARIANS SUBMIT PETITION FORMS TO REGAIN MINOR-PARTY STATUS

The Libertarian Party of Ohio expects its comeback to succeed, allowing the party to field candidates for governor, U.S. Senate and other offices this fall.

<u>DEMOCRAT DANNY O'CONNOR LAUNCHES AD LINKING HIMSELF TO ... JOHN</u> KASICH?

In a bid to win the support of independents and moderate Republicans, Democratic congressional candidate Danny O'Connor has launched a 30-second TV commercial

featuring an endorsement from a Delaware woman who voted for Ohio Gov. John Kasich and President Donald Trump.

EDITORIAL: STATEHOUSE SECURITY SHOULD BE APPLIED EVENLY TO ALL

It is disappointing that Statehouse security officials and a two-term state representative haven't been able to resolve the lawmaker's allegation that she has been inappropriately hassled multiple times while trying to enter the building.

THE PLAIN DEALER

RIGHT-TO-WORK GROUP DEMANDS OHIO STOP COLLECTING UNION DUES FROM SOME STATE WORKERS

A "right-to-work" advocacy group has threatened to launch a class-action suit against Ohio and 19 other states if they don't immediately stop deducting union dues from non-union public employees' paychecks following a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

OHIO DRUG TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION AMENDMENT COULD BE ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

Supporters of a proposal to reduce penalties for nonviolent drug crime offenders submitted hundreds of thousands of signatures on Wednesday to put the measure on the November ballot.

What medical conditions can be treated with medical marijuana in Ohio?

The success of a state's medical marijuana program can hinge on what medical conditions qualify a patient for treatment with cannabis.

OHIO LIBERTARIANS SEEK A RETURN TO THE BALLOT THIS YEAR

After almost four years in the political wilderness, the Libertarian Party of Ohio is seeking to regain state recognition for the 2018 midterm election.

'RIGHT-TO-WORK' GROUP THREATENS TO SUE OHIO AFTER SUPREME COURT RULING: CAPITOL LETTER

Just due it: A "right-to-work" advocacy group has threatened Ohio with a lawsuit if it doesn't immediately stop collecting union dues from non-union state workers.

THE ENQUIRER

<u>DIALYSIS TO DUELS: WHY OHIO KEEPS VOTING ON ODD, COMPLICATED BALLOT ISSUES</u>

Are you well-versed in kidney dialysis pricing? Do you understand how Medicaid pays for prescription drugs?



RICHARD CORDRAY'S NAZI ANALOGY WAS AN OVERREACH

Republicans have pounced on Ohio Democratic governor candidate Richard Cordray for referencing Nazis in two recent rallies.

LOCAL DOG BREEDERS, RETAILERS REACT TO NEW ANTI-PUPPY-MILL LAW

Richard Stroshine, co-owner of Stroshine's Studs and Buds in Northwood, is too familiar with the horrors of puppy mills.

EDITORIAL: SLAVERY IN OHIO

Former U.S. Attorney Steve Dettelbach is running for Attorney General of Ohio, in part, on the promise that he will focus on human trafficking.

EDITORIAL: REGISTER TO VOTE NOW

If you haven't voted in a while, check to make sure you are registered.

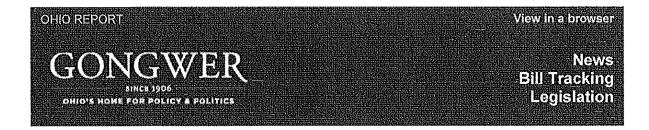
From: Gongwer News Service

Sent: Friday, July 6, 2018-5:56-PM

To: Snider, Grace

Subject: Ohio Report, Friday, July 6, 2018

Attachments: Jul6.htm; 180706dayplan.htm; Jul9Schedule.htm; 180706plan.htm



OHIO REPORT FRIDAY, JULY 6

Payday Lending Proposal Slated For Rare Summer Action In Senate Next Week

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State Touts Mental Health Parity With Managed Care Integration Of Behavioral Services

CAUV 'On the Road To Correction' Following Budget Changes, Group Says

Ed Board Expected To Debate, Vote On Third-Grade Reading Benchmark

Rover, FERC Staff Spar Over Land Restoration, Pipeline Operations

Public Comments Continue On State, Federal Lifeline Proposals

'Sweeping' Changes In Store After Federal Regulators Reject PJM Capacity Market Plans

Agency Briefs: Hurst To Replace Plouck At ODMHAS; U.S. Unemployment Rate Up; OSHP; ODNR

Burke Blasts Cordray's Medicaid Comments; Soybean Group Sounds Tariff Alarm; Boccieri Calls For More Local Funding

Case Remanded After Judge Cites Article In Sentencing; High Court Denies Stay Of Execution; Buckeye Institute Weighs In On Case...

Portman Sets Sights On Deferred Park Maintenance; Dems Welcome Pruitt's Exit; Ryan Tours Immigrant Facility

Capitol Scene: Child Caring Group Updates Name

Governor's Appointments

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

CALENDARS

Day Planner

Legislative Committee Schedules

Event Planner

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Volume #87, Report #130 -- Friday, July 6, 2018 Payday Lending Proposal Slated For Rare Summer Action In Senate Next Week

An expected legislative break is being cut short for the Senate as the chamber is set to return next week to continue its work considering a contentious overhaul of short-term lending laws.

The payday lending bill (HB 123) is slated for consideration by the Senate Finance Committee Monday and Tuesday, if necessary. The measure is expected to come up before-the full Senate Tuesday morning.

The Finance Committee meetings are expected to be the only committee action of the week.

John Fortney, spokesman for Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina), said amendments are expected Monday or Tuesday.

What that language will look like remains unclear.

The committee spent much of last week hearing testimony on the measure and weighing potential changes offered by Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima).

Backers of the original language, which would limit fees and interest rates and require repayment to be capped at 5% of the borrower's income, balked at proposed changes in the Senate. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 21, 2018)

Proponents, including the Pew Charitable Trusts, voiced openness to some changes, such as increasing the allowable loan sizes and rates, that would still preserve the overarching framework. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 25, 2018)

Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) said this week he had prepared amendments to that effect but wasn't sure whether the committee would work from the House-passed language or from a framework outlined by Sen. Huffman.

"My amendments were directed toward 123 based on what I heard in terms of testimony and in terms of what could help within the structure of 123 to increase the costs a little bit to help out the lenders," he said in an interview.

Those discussions have included increased rates and allowable fees, including raising the limit on what a borrower can be required to pay back to perhaps as high as 10% of their income, Sen. Dolan said.

"That would obviously increase the ability for the borrower to borrow more money," Sen. Dolan said. "We're trying to find that fine line."

Supporters of the initial language have said raising the 5% income limit to perhaps 7% or 8% would be acceptable, but 10% could be too high.

Sen. Huffman's proposals would create a framework around the total costs of installment loans, limiting those to a per diem rate based on the size and duration of the loan. He has said the proposal would also cap the total principal amount a borrower could have out at any one time at \$2,500. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 26, 2018)

State Touts Mental Health Parity With Managed Care Integration Of Behavioral Services

With the July 1 carve-in of behavioral health services in Medicaid into managed care, the state says it is now compliant with a 2008 federal law requiring parity for mental health and addiction services.

The departments of Medicaid and of Mental Health and Addiction Services released a report examining compliance by managed care plans in providing parity in patients' access to those services.

The state was initially-scheduled to show compliance in October 2017 but received approval from federal regulators to wait until the July 1 integration of behavioral health services into managed care. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 28, 2018)

"That gave us the opportunity to have our implementation dates be the same as our carve-in," Medicaid Director Barbara Sears said in an interview.

The behavioral health integration is a separate effort from the work toward parity, but the state decided to have those dates coincide because of the way it framed its plan with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said Patrick Stephan, director of managed care for ODM.

"What we didn't want to do was have to go through the process twice," he said. "Had we not connected this with our integration of behavioral health services into managed care, we would've had to have done it on the fee-for-service side."

Parity means managed care plans will be prevented from having cumbersome prior authorization requirements, limits on service days or other restrictions on mental health services that aren't used on physical health services, Mr. Stephan said.

"At its core, this act requires us to make certain that within Medicaid, and in this case within the managed care plans' administration of the benefit, that we do not have qualitative or quantitative requirements on mental health services that are more stringent than what you would get on the physical side," he said.

Mr. Stephan said the move toward managed care will also help ensure patients' access to mental health services because plans are required to provide that access and can incentivize providers in order to achieve it.

"In the fee for service side, we had very little ability to encourage new providers into the market," he said. "On the managed care side, we have standards that the plans must meet, and if they don't, then they get fined, they get penalized."

Lori Criss, CEO of the Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers, said parity is key but questioned whether the system has actually achieved the goal.

"Fully implementing and robustly enforcing the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 is critically important to ensure that Ohioans can understand and access the health insurance benefits rightly available to them," she said in a statement. "While we appreciate Ohio Medicaid's compliance report, the analysis appears to lack sufficient detail to support its broad conclusion without review of the underlying assessment documents."

Moving forward, the state will have to ensure parity standards are met, she said.

"The real test will be how well Medicaid promotes transparency and holds the plans accountable for the law's requirements," she said. "The Ohio Parity at 10 Coalition looks forward to working with lawmakers and the administration to raise awareness-of the law's benefits to Ohioans, their families and employers."

CAUV 'On the Road To Correction' Following Budget Changes, Group Says

Budget language aimed at alleviating increased costs from rising Current Agricultural Use Values are having their intended impact, the Ohio Farmers Union told state officials recently.

The Department of Taxation each year holds a public hearing in June to brief farmers and interest groups on the latest values and to gather feedback on the subject.

In recent years, the meetings have been the site of much angst as some farmers grapple with sharp increases. During the 2014 tax year, the high watermark, increases were seen as high as 400%. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 2, 2017)

"We had tremendous increase in the CAUV values going back to 2008," said Ted Finnarn, attorney for the organization. "Because of (the changes), the CAUV values have come down and are heading back down to where they should have been."

But the latest meeting came and went with little fanfare, with the union providing the only testimony and praising the recent changes.

"We're finally on the road to correction," Mr. Finnarn said in an interview. "By the 2020 cycle, the CAUV values will be down so farmers have more reasonable taxes."

Gloria Gardner, assistant administrator for the department, said the statewide average value for cropland came in at \$1,015 per acre for tax year 2018, down about 27% from 2015 values which were \$1,388. The values are updated every three years as counties undergo their appraisal process.

"The values are dropping pretty significantly due to some of the changes that were in House Bill 49 in 2017 and this is the second year of implementing those changes," Ms. Gardner said. "The woodland values are also coming down."

The budget changes, which originated in the Senate, modified the factors to be used in computing the values and placed a ceiling on the taxable value of CAUV land if it is also used for conservation purposes. The changes were phased across two stages over a six year assessment cycle.

"We sort of had a perfect storm - all of these things coming together - and we had extremely high values that were unwarranted and unfair and unprecedented," Mr. Finnarn said. "Now we're on the road to having more reasonable real estate taxes for farmers and woodland owners."

Not all parties were pleased with the budget changes, however. School groups expressed repeated concerns with how the changes might impact their districts, forecasting a 30% reduction in farming property values that would shift the burden onto other property owners.

Barbara Shaner, advocacy specialist for the Ohio Association of School Business Officials, said those fears continue.

"We're still sorting out the results of the most recent information from the tax department but we also think we won't see the full effect for a few more years because not all the counties have undergone their reevaluation," Ms. Shaner said. "We remain concerned and we'll continue to monitor the way it's turning out."

Ed Board Expected To Debate, Vote On Third-Grade Reading Benchmark

The State Board of Education is set to vote to increase the Third Grade Reading Guarantee promotion score next weekend at its monthly meeting.

A proposal to raise the benchmark students would need to meet on the Ohio State Test for third grade English and language arts from 672 to 677 was set for a possible vote by the panel's Achievement and Graduation Requirements Committee last month, but it ultimately delayed its decision. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 12, 2018)

The committee is once again scheduled to discuss the proposal at its 8:30 a.m. Tuesday meeting, with the full board expected to consider the resolution enacting the change later that day. The resolution is set for consideration as an emergency measure, so it would take effect before the start of the next school year.

The state board is required by law to review the third grade language arts benchmark and adjust it upward annually until it reaches 700, which indicates proficiency, according to a memo sent to committee members late last month by the Department of Education's legal staff.

Despite the requirement that the score increase, the committee balked at recommending the promotion score be set at 677 last month, with multiple members asking for more time to discuss the potential change with local school district officials.

District 4 board member Pat Bruns at the time said she was concerned raising the score could mean districts' improvements at teaching young readers would not be reflected in state report cards, sending a "false message" to community members.

An overview of the issue provided by ODE to the committee states that: "Because of the state law, the education community is expecting to see a modest increase in the promotion score. No one will be surprised by an increase."

ODE also argues the change in the overall language arts score from 672 to 677 corresponds to the smallest possible increase in the reading subscore, from 44 to 45.

"It is possible this change will not increase the number or percent of students who are retained. If there is a reduction in the number of students promoted, we would expect it to be small," the overview states.

At-large board member Laura Kohler, the committee's chairwoman, previously said she supports the plan to increase the benchmark to 677 because administrators and teachers have been preparing for it with increased aid from the state.

"We're looking at a different landscape than we were a couple of year ago with the supports that are in place," she said.

Subscriber's Note: The full agenda for the State Board of Education's Monday and Tuesday meeting is available online.

Rover, FERC Staff Spar Over Land Restoration, Pipeline Operations

Rover Pipeline operators, long at odds with state regulators, are now amping up their frustration with their federal overseers.

In recent missives, Rover Pipeline LCC blasted Federal Energy Regulatory Commission staff for what it considers the commission's failure to authorize full operation of a major section of the controversial project. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 1, 2018)

The lack of action on FERC's part has left Rover "more than a little baffled," wrote Rover Senior Vice President Chris Sonneborn. But FERC staff said the delays are prompted by Rover's failure to restore land impacted by the project by a June 30 deadline. The

company in recent weeks has informed staff restoration efforts are likely to continue until 🧢 "at least" July 30.

According to Rover, FERC staff in May authorized service to commence on a main segment of the pipeline called Supply Connector Line B. But in doing so, staff withheld granting in-service authorization for two laterals pending further review.

"As a result of staff's inaction, significant volumes of natural gas have been unable to flow on pipeline facilities that have been completed for nearly a month," Mr. Sonneborn wrote. "This is unfortunate, because...the incremental natural gas supply that would have been available to flow would have been used to offset the large deficit the nation is facing to replenish storage inventories in preparation for the 2018-2019 heating season...."

Failure to act soon, the company claims, is outside "the public interest." But FERC declined to be persuaded by the company's comments. Staff instead responded with a formal notice directing the company to complete outstanding restoration activities at those two Ohio sites.

"Because restoration of these facilities was not complete at the time of in-service authorization, Rover committed to completing the remaining restoration activities by specific dates," wrote John Wood, FERC's deputy director of the Office of Energy Projects. "However, commission staff monitoring certificate compliance believes that rover will be unable to meet a number of those commitments...."

As a result, staff directed Rover to take "prompt and immediate action" and to file prior to-July 9 a detailed account of why the company cannot adhere to the agreed upon timetable.

"Neither the commission nor its staff takes lightly a pipeline's commitments to restore and rehabilitate affected lands," Mr. Wood said. "Accordingly, the commission expects pipelines to follow through on their commitments to restore and rehabilitate land and other resources disturbed by the construction of a certificated pipeline."

In response, Mr. Sonneborn issued a second letter this week leveling further attacks, accusing FERC staff of making "several inaccurate statements" toward the project and the company's willingness to fulfill its land restoration commitments.

"For the record, and as Rover has stated previously in this docket on numerous occasions, Rover will honor and meet all of its restoration commitments - whether those are scheduled to occur before or after Rover is fully in service," Rover wrote. "Any implication to the contrary is simply untrue."

Rover now is also accusing FERC staff of "a fundamental misunderstanding" of how the restoration process works.

"A company can supply ample resources, equipment, and personnel to restoration efforts; however, the variable of weather, and therefore the pace of restoration, is simply outside of any pipeline's control," Rover wrote. "There is no amount of planning or resources that can change the reality that on any major pipeline project there are always going to be changes to the restoration schedule due to events outside of the pipeline's control."

The company's public pushback accusing FERC of stating falsehoods is much like the back-and-forth Rover has engaged in with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Rover and the OEPA have engaged in a months-long back and forth with Rover accusing OEPA of cooperating with the company in private but taking an adversarial approach in public.

That tiff ultimately led to a lawsuit filed by the state, which Rover and several other defendants have filed to dismiss. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 5, 2018)

Public Comments Continue On State, Federal Lifeline Proposals

Stakeholder groups and citizens are continuing their efforts to thwart state and federal proposals that would eliminate in whole or in part a federal discount program for low-income customers.

At the state level, AT&T is proposing to discontinue its participation in the federal Lifeline program - which grants eligible customers a \$9.25 monthly credit - in areas in which another provider operates that service.

But the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has yet to approve that plan and in recent days has urged the public to weigh in via written feedback.

Meanwhile, the Federal Communications Commission is weighing a similar but more farreaching plan that would largely eliminate the resource for a swathe of customers across the country. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 23, 2018)

In the PUCO case, comments have been submitted from a handful of citizens as of Friday, each urging the commission to deny AT&T's plan and maintain the program.

Several commenters described themselves as licensed social workers working with elderly-populations. Others are customers who benefit from the program and who labeled the company's attempt to cut it "indefensible" and "abhorrent."

AT&T, for its part, has emphasized that no Ohio customer will lose voice service through the move but will instead receive it at the standard rate. Customers are free, it said, to receive the Lifeline discount from other providers in those areas.

The move "will have only a nominal impact on Ohio consumers who have demonstrated a clear preference for obtaining their Lifeline discount from (companies) other than

AT&T," the company said. "Over the past eight years, AT&T has seen its own Ohio Lifeline subscribership shrink by 94%."

Advocates, though, caution the move would strip vulnerable Ohioans of a valuable resource. The Ohio Consumers' Counsel and the Greater Edgemont Community Coalition are among those protesting the idea. In part, they've urged commissioners to solicit public input and take the federal case-into consideration. (Docket)

In the federal case, the Federal Communications Commission is proposing changes critics say will erect more barriers for Lifeline consumers nationwide. There are about 608,000 total subscribers in Ohio, according to proponents of the program.

The PUCO and the Ohio Consumers' Counsel are among parties that have submitted comments in opposition to the federal proposal.

Under the proposed changes, eligible consumers must enroll online first through a third-party verifier and then through a specified carrier. Currently, the customer can enroll directly through their provider.

Proponents of the Lifeline program this week were denied a stay in the case when regulators determined the parties were unlikely to prevail on the merits and would not suffer irreparable injury.

In response, Q Link, the nation's third-largest Lifeline provider, on Thursday filed an emergency motion that if approved would enact additional changes to enable carriers to collect customer information directly from the third-party verifier.

Q Link serves about 40,000 Lifeline customers in Ohio. Sixty-seven percent reside in rural or suburban areas and 82% are new to Lifeline, which the company said indicates they were previously unserved by and may not have access to other providers.

"The...proposed change will be unnecessarily difficult and confusing for consumers," said Q Link CEO Issa Asad in a statement. "Beyond the impact on rural Americans, which will be significant, the new system's failure to include automated links with carriers will unnecessarily cost taxpayers tens of millions of dollars."

'Sweeping' Changes In Store After Federal Regulators Reject PJM Capacity Market Plans

Federal regulators voted along party lines recently to toss aside two proposals from PJM Interconnection to revamp the capacity market, paving the way for a potentially drastic shake up in the months ahead.

PJM in April submitted two competing proposals for FERC's consideration on how to best overhaul the market. But in the end, the commission's 3-2 order went far beyond simply rejecting the proposals and instead paves the way for what one dissenting

commissioner labeled "sweeping" changes for the grid operator that serves 13 states. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 7, 2018)

In short, the commission determined subsidies for renewable and nuclear sources have rendered PJM's current tariff "unjust, unreasonable and unduly discriminatory" in that it fails to ensure adequate competition. FERC is now proposing to expand the minimum offer price rule - which enacts a screening process to gauge the competitiveness of new resources - among other changes.

"We find...the PJM Tariff allows resources receiving out-of-market support to significantly affect capacity prices in a manner that will cause unjust and unreasonable and unduly discriminatory rates in PJM regardless of the intent motivating the support," the majority wrote. "We are compelled...to conclude that out-of-market payments by certain PJM states have reached a level sufficient to significantly impact the capacity market clearing prices and the integrity of the resulting price signals on-which investors and consumers rely to guide the orderly entry and exit of capacity resources."

Stakeholder groups in Ohio and beyond are still parsing the details of the 106-page order, but they have a short timetable to digest its ramifications. After the 60-day comment window, parties have 30 days for reply comments after which FERC wants to reach a solution.

PJM issued a statement-stating its pleasure that FERC is taking action.

"The order appears to be a positive step to change competitive electric market design while recognizing the important role states play in influencing the resource mix through retail energy policies;" according to PJM. "We will begin work immediately to develop the kind of bifurcated capacity construct envisioned by the commission and actively engage stakeholders, including the states, within the timetable laid out by the commission."

But FERC's two Democratic members issued scathing dissents regarding the substance of the order and the timeline laid out by the majority.

"Let's be clear: through its action today, the majority signals its intent to adopt, through a 90-day paper hearing, the most sweeping changes to the PJM capacity construct since the market's inception more than a decade ago," Commissioner Cheryl LaFleur wrote in her dissent. "If ultimately adopted, this proposal would fundamentally rebalance the resource adequacy responsibilities of the states, the commission, and PJM."

Commissioner Richard Glick said the commission in its order "entirely fails" to demonstrate its claims the market is unjust and further criticized the timeline.

"Requiring interested parties to decipher today's order, develop testimony, gather evidence, and meaningfully respond within 60 days is irresponsible," he said. "On top of that, this short timeframe essentially guarantees that PJM will not be able to work with the states to develop a proposal that aligns with state policies."

Agency Briefs: Hurst To Replace Plouck At ODMHAS; U.S. Unemployment Rate Up; OSHP; ODNR

Dr. Mark Hurst will replace Tracy Plouck as director of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services next week as Ms. Plouck, a longtime administration official, leaves for the private sector.

Gov. John Kasich announced Dr. Hurst's appointment Friday. He will take over the department effective July 13.

Ms. Plouck has been in Gov. Kasich's cabinet since 2011 and has twice served as state Medicaid director. She also served as deputy director in the Department of Developmental Disabilities and the Office of Budget and Management.

"I'm extremely grateful to Tracy Plouck for her leadership, compassion, counsel and service to Ohio," Gov. Kasich said. "She has a servant spirit and exemplifies the best in public leadership. She is a model for other leaders to follow and I wish her and her family all the best in this new chapter of their lives."

Dr. Hurst has served as medical director at ODMHAS since 2012 and has been at the department since 1993.

"Dr. Hurst's-leadership, insights and compassion have distinguished him as a valuable member of our team and contributed mightily to the progress Ohio is beginning to make against addiction and to lift up-our fellow Ohioans struggling with mental illness," Gov. Kasich said in a statement. "I appreciate that he's agreed to take on this responsibility. The work-ahead is monumental and the challenges will continue to shift, but his leadership has been and will continue to be an enormous asset in Ohio's efforts in these areas."

Unemployment: The U.S. added 213,000 jobs in June despite a loss of jobs in retail trade, but the unemployment rate rose to 4% as more people re-entered the labor force, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Friday.

The unemployment rate rose by 0.2 percentage points to 4% as the number of unemployed people rose by nearly 500,000 to 6.6 million, the BLS reported.

The overall labor force grew significantly, rising by 601,000, with the labor force participation rate rising 0.2 percentage points to 62.9%, the report said.

The survey found job gains of 50,000 for the month in professional and business services. Manufacturing employment grew-by 36,000, mostly-in durable goods manufacturing, including fabricated metal products (+7,000), computer and electronic products (+5,000) and primary metals (+3,000).

Motor vehicles and parts manufacturing bounced back from a loss of 8,000 jobs in May with a gain of 12,000 in June, the report found.

Health care employment was up 25,000 for the month, construction was up 13,000 and mining was up 5,000.

Retail trade lost 22,000 jobs, a month after seeing a gain of 25,000 in May.

State Highway Patrol: The patrol reported eight people were killed in four deadly crashes during the Fourth of July reporting period Tuesday and Wednesday. Impairment was a factor in at least one of the deadly crashes.

During last year's reporting period, from June 30 to July 4, there were 21 fatal crashes that killed 21 people, including eight OVI-related crashes, the patrol said.

Troopers made 296 impaired driving arrests and 276 arrests on drug charges. They responded to 297 crashes and assisted more than 2,000 motorists.

"When someone chooses to drive impaired the consequences can be deadly," Patrol Superintendent Col. Paul A. Pride said in a statement. "That's why troopers make OVI enforcement a priority, whether they're patrolling during a holiday weekend or any time of day. Motorists should always pre-plan a sober way home."

Natural Resources: The department's officers and partnering agencies issued 102 citations and 895 warnings last weekend during Operation Dry Water, a nationwide crackdown on impaired boating.

There were three boating-related fatalities in Ohio during the weekend, the ODNR said.

ODNR officers and partners contacted 3,500 boaters on 1,261 vessels for various violations during the crackdown.

The Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management reported that 2,840 permits had been issued for drilling in the Utica shale as of June 30, with 2,370 wells drilled and 1,904 in production.

Burke Blasts Cordray's Medicaid Comments; Soybean Group Sounds Tariff Alarm; Boccieri Calls For More Local Funding

A lawmaker on Friday accused Democratic gubernatorial candidate Richard Cordray of either lying about or not understanding the issue of Medicaid expansion.

Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville), who chairs the Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee, accused Mr. Cordray of twice in the past week saying that 26,000 children could be impacted if Medicaid expansion were rolled back.

However, Sen. Burke said in a statement that the expansion covers only childless adults.

"Richard Cordray continues to make Medicaid expansion a key part of his campaign for governor, but his statements over the past week prove he does not understand Ohio's Medicaid program. Cordray's comments in the media show he is either unprepared to be governor, or that he is willing to blatantly lie and use fear tactics to scare Ohioans into voting for him," he said.

"Medicaid comprises over 50% of Ohio's annual budget. If Richard Cordray doesn't understand such a key part of the state budget, then Ohioans simply cannot trust him to sit in the governor's office. Richard Cordray is making promises, and this week he's proven to us that that he doesn't know how he would keep them, even if he wanted to."

In response, the campaign of Mr. Cordray cited a 2016 report from the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families that credited Medicaid expansion for 26,000 children gaining insurance coverage from 2013-2015.

Tariff Concerns: The Ohio Soybean Association is sounding the alarm about retaliatory tariffs China has placed on American soybeans. The tariffs kicked in Friday in response to tariffs enacted by the Trump Administration that same day on an array of Chinese goods.

The group in a statement said 61% of all soybean exports go to China, which accounts for about \$14 billion annually in sales.

"This doesn't only hurt Ohio farmers, it will hurt the entire Ohio economy," said Allen Armstrong, OSA president and soybean farmer from Clark County. "We continue to believe that solutions can be found that do not involve tariffs and a trade war that will hurt all of rural America."

Local Funding: A new report by the Brookings Institute has led to a renewed call for more local government funding.

The report found that from 2010-2017, three Ohio cities ranked in the top 20 in population decline: Youngstown (19), Toledo (12) and Cleveland (5).

Rep. John Boccieri (D-Alliance) in a statement called for additional funding for local governments to stem the tide of population loss.

"You can push the responsibility of raising revenue to the lowest layers of government while sending more and more to state government," he said. "As elected officials, we have a duty to work together to get things done - regardless of who is in charge."

Case Remanded After Judge Cites Article In Sentencing; High Court Denies Stay Of Execution; Buckeye Institute Weighs In On Case...

A federal district court judge erred in doubling a man's sentence after citing a Cleveland.com article on opioid overdoses, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled recently.

Marcus Fleming in July 2016 was pulled over by Canton police and found to be carrying nearly 1,000 grams of cocaine.

Based on federal sentencing guidelines, the prosecution recommended five years in prison for Mr. Fleming.

However, at the sentencing hearing Judge John Adams cited the article before handing down a 10-year sentence.

Mr. Fleming argued he was prejudiced by the use of the article because he did not know it would be cited at the sentencing hearing and he was not provided an opportunity to address the issues raised.

The Sixth Circuit agreed, finding the sentence was rendered in a procedurally unreasonable manner.

"The district court's consideration of information about mixed cocaine-opioid overdose deaths was a surprise because, before the sentencing hearing, there was no indication that opioids were relevant to this case, let alone that they would play a prominent role. Fleming was convicted for possession of cocaine, not opioids," Judge John Rogers wrote in the court's decision.

"Nothing in the record suggested that opioids were found in Fleming's car, or that Fleming had ever sold or possessed opioids, or even that any cocaine Fleming sold had ever been mixed with opioids. Of course, opioids have been a topic of grave public concern in recent years, as their devastating and tragic effects have been felt across the country. But it was far from apparent that they were relevant to Fleming's sentence for possession of cocaine."

Judge Rogers was joined by Judge Raymond Kethledge and Judge Damon Keith in his decision.

The case is remanded back to the district court for sentencing.

Stay Denied: The Ohio Supreme Court has declined to stay the execution of a man set to be put to death this month.

In a unanimous ruling the court declined to stay the July 18 execution of Robert Van Hook.

He is on death row after being convicted of the 1985 murder of David Self.

Judicial Deference: The Buckeye Institute has filed an amicus brief in a case that could end judicial deference to executive agencies' interpretations of the law.

"The practice of courts relying on agencies to interpret the law has proven to be dysfunctional, inconsistent with our constitutional system, and has led to the erosion of individual liberties," President and CEO Robert Alt said in a statement. "It is time for the Supreme Court to junk *Chevron*."

Disciplinary Proceedings: The Board of Professional Conduct announced that 12 cases have been certified for formal disciplinary proceedings.

Portman Sets Sights On Deferred Park Maintenance; Dems Welcome Pruitt's Exit; Ryan Tours Immigrant Facility

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) is among a bipartisan group of senators aiming to tackle about \$12 billion in deferred maintenance within the National Park Service.

He joined with senators Mark Warner (D-VA), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), and Angus King (I-ME) to introduce the Restore Our Parks Act, which has earned support from Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, the National Parks Conservation Association, the Pew Charitable Trusts' Restore America's Parks Campaign and the Outdoor Industry Association.

"For more than a century, the National Park Service has been inspiring Americans to explore the natural beauty of our country," Sen. Portman said in a statement. "But in order to keep that work going, we need to ensure that they have the right resources to maintain our national parks. This bill will create the Legacy Restoration Fund to provide the National Park Service with funds for deferred maintenance projects."

The legislation would provide more than \$100 million in funding for work at parks and historic sites in Ohio. The vast majority of the funding would go toward improvements at two sites: Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial in Put-in-Bay (\$47.7 million) and Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Cuyahoga and Summit counties (\$45.8 million).

Resignation: Democratic members of Ohio's congressional delegation had no kind words for U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt following his resignation Thursday.

"Scott Pruitt used taxpayer dollars to benefit himself while working to gut Lake Erie cleanup and the Renewable Fuel Standard and the Ohio jobs that depend on them," U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown tweeted. "He never should have been confirmed in the first place, and it's past time for him to go."

U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Niles) issued a brief statement in response to the departure: "It's about time."

U.S. Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-Blacklick) simply tweeted "Byeeeeee!" with a link to a media report about Mr. Pruitt's resignation.

Immigration: Rep. Ryan and three of his U.S. House colleagues from Michigan on Thursday received a tour of Bethany Christian Services' facility in Grand Rapids and learned about the organization's plans to reunite immigrant children with their families.

Rep. Ryan in a statement called the Trump administration's policy of separating children from parents at the U.S.'s southern border "state sponsored abuse."

"Children are traveling by themselves or with their loved ones to avoid violence and danger in their country, and they fled to the United States to find safety and security. They are doing what any responsible parent would do," he said. "But when they arrive at our border, the Trump Administration turns its back on our values and rips children away from their parents - with zero plan to bring them back together."

Hearing: Sen. Brown and Sen. Portman will conduct a field hearing of a congressional committee charged with solving looming pension problems next week at the Statehouse.

The House and Senate Joint Select Committee on Pensions will meet at 2 p.m. next Friday at in the Finan Hearing Room. The hearing will allow panel members to receive testimony from Ohio workers and retirees who could be affected if Congress fails to take action.

Multiple plans Ohioans participate in, including the Central States Teamsters Pension Plan, the United Mine Workers Pension Plan, the Ironworkers Local 17 Pension Plan, the Ohio Southwest Carpenters Pension Plan and the Bakers and Confectioners Pension Plan "are currently on the "brink of failure," according to a news release from Sen. Portman's office.

The committee, which has 16 members appointed by House and Senate leadership, has been tasked with reporting a bill to resolve the issue by the end of November.

Capitol Scene: Child Caring Group Updates Name

The advocacy group formerly known as the Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies has renamed itself the Ohio Children's Alliance, it was announced Friday.

The change, the group said, reflects the changing environment for child and family services.

"Our new name is more representative of our mission and the composition of our statewide network of community agencies," said Mark Mecum, the group's CEO. "Over the past five decades, our association has grown to over 70 community agencies that provide behavioral health, foster care, and other child and family services. We've also evolved into an alliance that fosters collaboration and innovation. Our new name symbolizes our commitment to Ohio's children and the agencies that serve them."

The organization was founded in 1973.

Governor's Appointments

State Dental Board: Tracy Intihar of Columbus to the for a term beginning July 6, 2018, and ending April 6, 2021.

Public Benefits Advisory Board: Dasmine Wright of Columbus for a term beginning July 6, 2018, and ending June 30, 2021.

Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission: Guy C. Coviello of Youngstown for a term-beginning July 6, 2018, and ending June 30, 2023.

Ohio Arts Council: Darryl D. Mehaffie of Greenville, Farid Naffah, MD of Cortland, and Neal F. Zimmers, Jr., JD of Granville have been reappointed to the for terms beginning July 6, 2018, and ending July 1, 2023.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Tuesday, July 10

Radioactive Materials Committee, 35 E. Chestnut St., Basement Training Room A, Columbus, 10:30 a.m.

Friday, July 13

Board of Voting Machine Examiners, 17th Fl., 180 E. Broad St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Monday, July 9

Release of June casino revenue figures, 1:30 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Tem Gallick, Staff Writers

Click the Fafter a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, July 7-Monday, July 9

Legislative Committees

Monday, July 16

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 3 p.m.

HB 123

LENDING LAWS (<u>Koehler, K.</u>, <u>Ashford, M.</u>) To modify the Short-Term Loan Act, to specify a minimum-duration requirement for loans made-under the Small Loan Law and Mortgage Loan Law, and to limit the authority of credit services organizations to broker extensions of credit for buyers. (6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

Agency Calendar

Monday, July 9

State Board of Education, 25 South Front St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m. Controlling Board, North Hearing Rm., Senate Bldg., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Monday, July 9

Release of June casino revenue figures, 1:30 a.m.
Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) golf outing fundraiser, Cooks Creek Golf Club, 14065 U.S. Rt. 23, S. Bloomfield, 11 a.m., (11 am registration; 12 pm shotgun)

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Tuesday, July 10

Senate Finance (Committee Record) (Chr. Oelslager, S., 466-0626), Finance Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

If needed

HB 123

LENDING LAWS (Koehler, K., Ashford, M.) To modify the Short-Term Loan Act, to specify a minimum duration requirement for loans made under the Small Loan Law and Mortgage Loan Law, and to limit the authority of credit services organizations to broker extensions of credit for buyers. (7th Hearing-Possible amendments & vote)

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 10 a.m.

Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 11 a.m.

Thursday, July 12-

Ohio Retirement Study Council (Committee Record) (Chr. Schuring, K., 228-1346), Rm. 121, 10 a.m. Managed Long-Term Services and Supports Study Committee (Chr. Burke, D., 000-0467), Senate Finance Hearing Rm., 10 a.m.

 Providers and consumers of MyCare services will be invited to share their perspectives on MyCare Ohio along with Q & A (100 minutes); Quality Measures Data from Department of Medicaid (20 minutes)

Monday, July 16

Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (Committee Record) (Chr. Uecker, J., 644-6030), Senate Finance Hearing Rm., 1:30 p.m.

NOTE: Click bill or resolution number links to see the legislative history compiled by Gongwer News Service. Click the after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill. Click "Full Text" if present to view the text of legislation on the Legislature's Web site.

17 S. High St., Suite 630 Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

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Event Planner

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Release of June casino revenue figures, 1:30 a.m.
Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) golf outing fundraiser, Cooks Creek Golf Club, 14065 U.S. Rt. 23, S. Bloomfield, 11 a.m., (11 am registration; 12 pm shotgun)

Tuesday, July 10

Rep. Scott Lipps (R-Franklin) fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Host: \$1,000, Sponsor: \$500, Patron: \$350 to Friends of Scott Lipps)

Wednesday, July 11

Rep. Richard Brown (D-Canal Winchester) fundraiser, The Paddock Club, 1005 Richardson Rd., Groveport, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor Levels: Sponsor \$250, Host \$100, Guest \$50 to Citizens for Richard Brown)

Thursday, July 12

Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Crest Gastropub, 621 Parsons Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Host \$500, Friend \$250, Supporter \$150; Guest \$69 to Friends of Hearcel F. Craig)

Monday, July 16

Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) golf outing fundralser, Mohawk Golf Course, 4399 OH-231, Tiffin, 8:30 a.m., (8:30 am registration; 10 am shotgun)

Tuesday, July 17

Republican Senate Campaign Committee MLB All-Star Game fundraiser, Dock 79, 79 Potomac Ave SE, Washington DC, 5 p.m., (Walk Off: \$5,000 | Grand Slam: \$2,500 | Home Run: \$1,000 to RSCC)

Thursday, July 19

ALEC Annual Meeting, Denver

Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) manicure fundraiser, W Nail Bar, 946 N. High Street, Columbus, 4 p.m., (PAC: \$500 | Individual: \$250 | Young Professional: \$50 to Citizens for Stephanie Kunze. RSVP is required to ensure appointment.) Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) Batter Up fundraiser, Progressive Field, 2401 Ontario Street, Cleveland, 4 p.m., (4:00pm Warm Up & Batting | 5:30pm Reception. Grand Slam: \$5,000 | Home Run: \$2,500 | Single: \$1,000 | Spectator: \$150 to Friends of Matt Dolan)

Friday, July 20

ALEC Annual Meeting, Denver

Rep. Tom Patton (R-Strongsville) golf outing fundraiser, Mallard Creek Golf Club, 34500 Royalton Road (SR 82), Columbia Station, 10 a.m., (10:00 am Shotgun start; Tournament: \$2,000, Eagle: \$1,000; Foursome: \$600, Birdie:\$5000, Person: \$150 to Friends of Tom Patton)

Saturday, July 21

ALEC Annual Meeting, Denver

Sunday, July 22

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Monday, July 23

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) golf outing fundraiser, Hidden Creek Golf Club, 6245 Sugar Creek Road, Lima, 9 a.m., (9:00am Registration | 10:00am Shotgun Start. Event Sponsor: \$1,000 | Foursome: \$400 | Tee or Green Sponsor: \$200 | Individual Golfer: \$100 to Huffman for Ohio)

Tuesday, July 24

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Gresso's, 961 S. High St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Gold: \$2,000; Silver: \$1,000; Bronze: \$500 to Seitz for Ohio)

Wednesday, July 25

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) golf outing fundraiser, Eagle Rock Golf Club, 211 Carpenter Road, Defiance, 11 a.m., (11:00am Registration and Lunch | 12:00pm Shotgun Start | 5:30pm Cocktail Hour | 6:00pm Dinner with State Rep. Craig Riedel. Event Sponsor: \$2,500 | Tee Sponsor: \$1,000 | Green Sponsor: \$500 | Foursome: \$400 | Dinner Sponsor: \$250 | Individual Golfer: \$100 to Citizens for McColley)

Thursday, July 26

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) golf outing fundraiser, Eagle Rock Golf Club, 211 Carpenter Rd., Defiance, 9:30 a.m., (9:30 Shotgun Start. Event:\$2,500, Tee:\$1,000, Green:\$500, Foursome:\$400, Golfer: \$100 to Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel) Rep. Bill Blessing (R-Cincinnati) fundraiser, Via Vite, 520 Vine St., Cincinnati, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000, Host: \$500, Guest: \$250 to Citizens for Blessing)

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YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Monday, July 30

NCSL Legislative Summit, Los Angeles

Tuesday, July 31

NCSL Legislative Summit, Los Angeles Deadline to file semi-annual campaign finance reports

Wednesday, August 1

NCSL Legislative Summit, Los Angeles Rep. Riordan McClain (R-Upper Sandusky) golf outing fundraisesr

Thursday, August 2

NCSL Legislative Summit, Los Angeles Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) Lake Erie fundraiser, Dock's Beach House, 252 W. Lakeshore Drive, Port Clinton, 4 p.m., (Sponsor: \$2,500 | Host: \$1,000 | Guest: \$500 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)

Friday, August 3

Deadline for statewide candidates to file July campaign finance reports Speaker Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) golf outing fundraiser, Cliffside Golf, 100 Cliffside Drive, Gallipolis, 9 a.m., (Coffee/Registration: 9:00am; Shotgun Start: 10:00am; Event Chair: \$12,707.79; Event host: \$5,000; Event sponsor: \$2,500; Tee Sponsor: \$1,000; Foursome: \$500; Individual Golfer: \$150; Reception only: \$75 to Friends of Ryan Smith)

Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, FOP Hall, 2249 Payne Ave., Cleveland, 5 p.m., (\$200 (table); \$20 (friend) to Friends of Sandra Williams)

Tuesday, August 7

Special election for 12th Congressional District seat

Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) fundraiser, Condado, 132 S. High St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Host: \$1,000, Sponsor: \$500, Patron: \$350 to Lanese for Ohio)

Wednesday, August 15

Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green) golf outing fundraiser

Thursday, August 16

Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) golf outing fundraiser

Friday, August 17

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) Fly Fishing fundraiser

Monday, August 20

Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) golf outing fundraiser, Pinnacle Golf Club, 1500 Pinnacle Golf Club Dr., Grove City, 10 a.m., (10:00 am Registration, 11:00 am Shotgun start, Dinner to follow; Event:\$1,500, Food and Beverage: \$700, Golfer: \$150; Hole: \$100 to Lanese for Ohio)

Thursday, August 23

Hamilton County GOP State Legislative golf outing fundraiser

Monday, August 27

Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) golf outing fundraiser, Denison Golf Club, 555 Newark Granville Rd., Granville, 9 a.m., (9:00 am Registration, 10:00 am Shotgun Start. Event: \$2500; Food and Beverage: \$1000; Tee: \$750; Foursome: \$500; Golfer: \$125; Green: \$100 to Citizens for Scott Ryan)

Saturday, September 1

Lobbyists/Employers can begin filing-May-August 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports

Thursday, September 6

Deadline for statewide candidates to file August campaign finance reports Rep. Rick Carfagna (R-Westerville) golf outing fundraiser

Friday, September 14

Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) golf outing fundraiser, Springdale Golf Course, 5871 Canterbury Road, North Olmstead, 9 a.m., (9:00 am Shotgun Start, Lunch at the Turn, Dinner to follow; Dinner Sponsor: \$1,500, Lunch Sponsor: \$1,000, Drink Sponsor: \$750, Hole Sponsor: \$100; Foursome: \$500, Single Golfer: \$125, Dinner only: \$60 to Friends of Dave Greenspan)

Thursday, September 27

Sen. President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) shotgun fundralser

Friday, September 28

Rep. Dave Greenspan (R-Westlake) golf outing fundraiser Sen. Joe Uecker (R-Loveland) Day at the Races fundraiser Monday, October 1

JLEC Deadline for filing May-August 2018 Activity & Expenditure Report

Wednesday, October 3

Deadline for statewide candidates to file September campaign finance reports

Thursday, October 25

Deadline to file pre-general campaign finance reports

Tuesday, November 6

General election day

Thursday, November 8

2018 Impact Ohio Post Election Conference, Greater Columbus Convention Center, 400 N. High St., Columbus

Saturday, December 1

Lobbyists can begin renewing Legislative, Executive and Retirement System registrations for 2019

Friday, December 14

Deadline to file post-general campaign finance reports

Monday, December 31

All 2018 Legislative, Executive and Retirement System lobbying registrations expire in OLAC

Thursday, January 31

Deadline to 2018 annual campaign finance reports

Deadline to 2018 annual campaign finance reports

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

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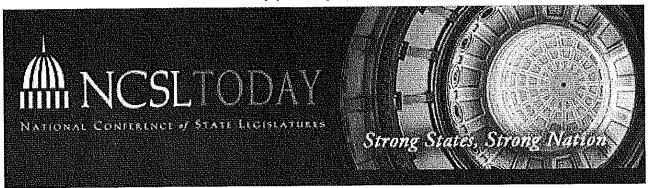
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Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 10:49 AM

To: Snider, Grace

Subject: Why 'orphan' oil and gas wells are a growing problem for states

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TOP NEWS July 9, 2018

Why 'orphan' oil and gas wells are a growing problem for states

Stateline

Unplugged wells can leak explosive gas into neighborhoods and leach toxins into groundwater.

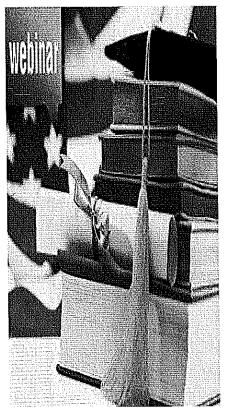
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NCSL resources on health insurances premiums and increases.

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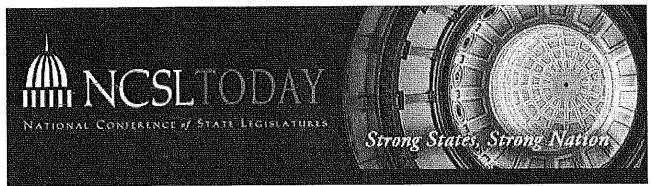
From: NCSL TODAY

Sent: Monday, July 9, 2018 10:49 AM

To: Snider, Grace

Subject: Why 'orphan' oil and gas wells are a growing problem for states

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TOP NEWS July 9, 2018

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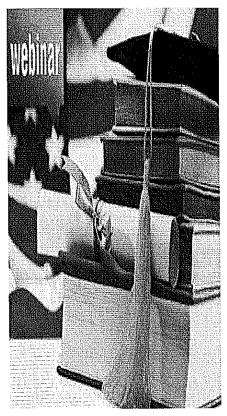
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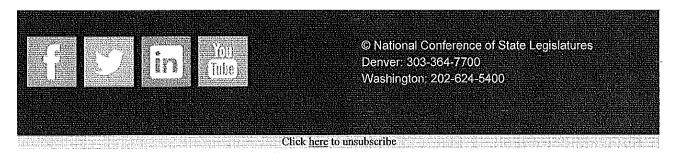
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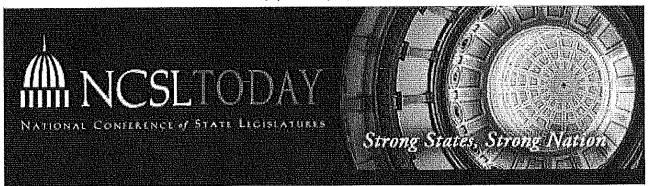
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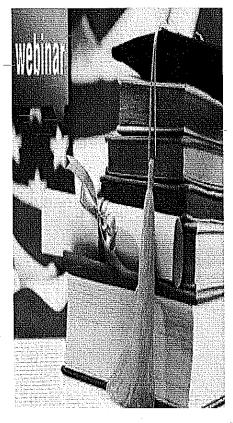
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Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2018 11:06 AM

To: Snider, Grace

Subject: The Buckeye Institute Launches Workers Choose Campaign to Allow Public Employees to Express First Amendment Rights in Wake of Janus Ruling



Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 10, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

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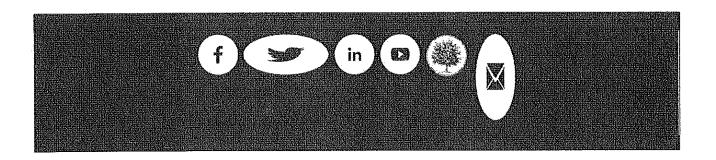
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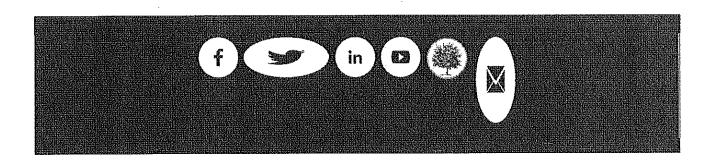
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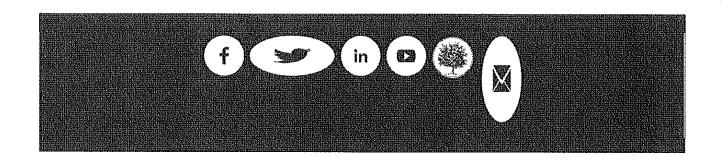
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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 11:22 AM

To: Snider, Grace

Subject: The Buckeye Institute Urges Ohio Policymakers to Pursue Systemic Tax

Reform



Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 5, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute Urges Ohio Policymakers to Pursue Systemic Tax Reform

Greg Lawson Testifies Before the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today (see full text below or download a PDF) before the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee on House Bill 333.

In opening his testimony, Lawson noted that "nullifying tax penalties and making the tax code fairer for taxpayers is...laudable" and, quoting from a **study** by the American Enterprise Institute and the Brookings Institute, further highlighted the "significant correlation between marriage, poverty, and economic growth."

Lawson also noted that the "new marriage neutrality is only necessary because Ohio's tax code remains tragically progressive," and went on to say the policy "addresses but one symptom of a bed-ridden patient without offering any lasting cure."

The cure, Lawson said, is systemic change to Ohio's tax code that would include reforming the municipal income tax structure and would create a tax system that is pro-growth, simple, transparent, fair, and equitable, as outlined in Buckeye's *Tax Reform Principles for Ohio*.

Lawson applauded the efforts of policymakers to eliminate Ohio's marriage penalty, but urged them to pursue "fundamental changes" that will spur economic growth and help families "climb the ladder of prosperity."

###

Interested Party Testimony Before the Ohio House Ways and Means Committee on House Bill 333

Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow The Buckeye Institute June 5, 2018

Chairman Schaffer, Ranking Member Rogers, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 333.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, an independent research and educational institution -- a think tank -- whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

House Bill 333 will annul the "marriage penalty" currently wedded to Ohio's personal state income tax. Nullifying tax penalties and making the tax code fairer_for taxpayers is, of course, laudable. Eliminating this particular penalty -- and thereby encouraging, rather than discouraging marriage -- is especially worthwhile considering the significant correlation between marriage, poverty, and economic growth.

Last year, for instance, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) and Brookings Institute found that "Less than half of poor Americans age 18 to 55 (just 26 percent) and 39 percent of working-class Americans are currently married, compared to more than half (56 percent) of middle- and upper-class Americans,"[1] indicating a strong connection between the matrimonial bond and economic status.

Using "models that control for a range of factors...that might otherwise confound the family-economy link at the state level," an earlier AEI study concluded in 2015:

"Higher levels of marriage, and especially higher levels of married-parent families, are strongly associated with more economic growth, more economic mobility, less child poverty, and higher median family income at the state level in the United States. When we compare states in the top quintile of married-parent families with those in the bottom quintile, we find that being in the top quintile is associated with a \$1,451 higher per capita

GDP, 10.5 percent greater upward income mobility for children from lower-income families, a 13.2 percent decline in the child poverty rate, and a \$3,654 higher median family income."[2]

Thus, on purely socio-economic policy grounds, policymakers should reduce if not eliminate disincentives to marry. The tax code's disincentives or the so-called "marriage penalties" arise when two people with similar incomes get married and jointly file their tax returns.[3] When the newly-weds combine their incomes and file jointly, they enter a higher bracket than if they chose to remain single and file separately.[4] This higher tax liability penalizes marriage -- effectively using the tax code to pick winners (those who do not marry) and losers (married couples filing jointly). When governments pick winners and losers, people tend to suffer.

HB 333 offers relief to a large number of Ohio families currently losing an unfair tax game because it allows married joint-filers to claim a new tax credit such that they would pay no more than if they could legally file separately. Such tax relief is good.

But HB 333's new marriage neutrality, of course, is only necessary because Ohio's tax code remains tragically progressive. Describing the similarly progressive federal tax code's "marriage penalties," Congress' Joint Committee on Taxation once explained:

"The current tax system is progressive: as a taxpayer's income rises, the tax-burden increases as a percentage of income. It also taxes married couples with equal income equally: it specifies the married couple as the tax unit so that married couples with the same income pay the same tax. However, it is not marriage neutral."[5]

Although HB 333 takes a positive step forward in the fight against unfair taxation, it is important to recognize its limitations. It addresses but one symptom of a bed-ridden patient without offering any lasting cure. Even after HB 333 nullifies the state's marriage penalty, Ohio will still suffer from its growth-killing disease: progressive taxation. Indeed, after accounting for the state's municipal income tax structure -- the worst local tax system in America -- Ohio ranks in the upper half of the nation in combined state and local tax burden. [6] And removing the state's marriage penalty, unfortunately, will not do enough to change that.

More systemic changes are needed. As The Buckeye Institute explained in our *Tax Reform Principles for Ohio*,[7] the state's tax code should be pro-growth, simple, transparent, fair, and equitable.[8] Flatter taxes on broader bases, without special exemptions, will lower the tax burden and spread their cost more evenly and fairly among taxpayers. Streamlining and simplifying the local tax structure will help, too. So although we applaud the efforts to end

the state's marriage penalty, more fundamental work remains to be done. Settling only for superficial remedies without pursuing more fundamental changes, without working to structurally reform the state's progressive taxation, Ohio will continue to be plagued by mediocre economic growth that has kept families from climbing the ladder of prosperity for decades.[9]

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions the Committee might have.

[1] W. Bradford Wilcox and Wendy Wang, *The Marriage Divide: How and Why Working-Class Families are More Fragile Today*, The American Enterprise Institute and Brookings Institute, September 2017.

[2] W. Bradford Wilcox, Robert I. Lerman, and Joseph Price, Strong Families, Prosperous States: Do Healthy Families Affect the Wealth of States?, American Enterprise Institute, October 19, 2015.

[3] Kyle Pomerleau, *Understanding the Marriage Penalty and Marriage Bonus*, Tax Foundation, April 23, 2015.

[4] *Ibid*.

[5] Staff for the Joint Committee on Taxation, Fairness and Tax Policy, Joint Committee on Taxation, March 3, 2015.

[6] Katherine Loughead, State and Local Individual Income Tax Collections Per Capita, Tax Foundation, May 31, 2018.

[7] Rea Hederman Jr., Tom Lampman, Greg R. Lawson, and Joe Nichols, *Tax Reform Principles for Ohio*, The Buckeye Institute, February 2, 2015.

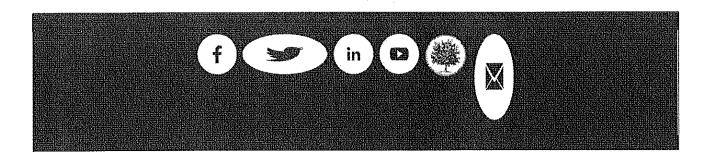
[8] *Ibid.*

[9] Rich Exner, Ranking Ohio Governors for Jobs: John Kasich's Current Term is a Lot-Like Ted Strickland's Record vs. the U.S., Cleveland.com, May 22, 2018.

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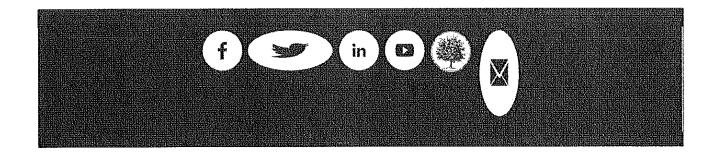
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The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street, Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Ohioans Against the Reckless Dialysis Amendment

Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2018 11:39 AM

To: Snider, Grace

Subject: Ohio Kidney Patient, Healthcare Groups Oppose Reckless Dialysis

Amendment

View this email in your browser



Tuesday, July 10, 2018

Ohio Kidney Patient, Healthcare Groups Unite Against Reckless Dialysis Amendment

(COLUMBUS) – <u>Ohioans Against the Reckless Dialysis Amendment</u>, a broad coalition of leading kidney care organizations, nurses, physicians and patient advocates, today announced its opposition to a proposed Constitutional Amendment that threatens to reduce access to Ohio's 326 out-patient dialysis clinics for the 18,000 Ohioans suffering from kidney failure.

Dialysis providers are among the most regulated healthcare provider groups in the country. All out-patient clinics are licensed by the Ohio Department of Health, certified by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and highly regulated under current state and federal laws and regulations. Current laws and regulations address, among other things, patient safety; environmental cleanliness; infection prevention and control; emergency preparedness; staff training and continuing education; and water system and equipment maintenance. Clinics must also submit to unannounced quality assessments and inspections by the Ohio Department of Health.

"The proposed amendment was written by a California-based special interest group with no experience in dialysis care and – without any evidence of a problem – would recklessly lock dangerous, arbitrary rules into the Ohio Constitution, threatening access to high-quality care for thousands of Ohioans," said Diane Wish, co-founder and president of the <u>Ohio Renal Association (ORA)</u>. "What= 2s worse, the amendment calls for rebates that will end up in the pockets of insurance companies, not patients."

Wish, a registered nurse with more than 40 years of experience in providing dialysis treatment, is joined by other kidney care experts and physicians in opposition to the proposed amendment initiated by the California-based SEIU-UHW West.

"I've seen first-hand the devastating health consequences my dialysis patients face without proper access to care," said Dr. Henry Wehrum, a nephrologist (kidney specialist) with nearly 30 years of experience in the field, who also serves on the board of the Ohio Osteopathic Association (OOA). "The Ohio Constitution is simply not the place for complicated healthcare policy. And because it's written as a Constitutional Amendment, when things go wrong it can only be changed by another Constitutional Amendment – that's not a risk I= 2m willing to take on behalf of my patients."

Michael Needham, president and CEO of the Kidney Foundation of Ohio (KFO) added, "the Kidney Foundation of Ohio-opposes the amendment because it will harm patients, not help them. The Amendment threatens to reduce the number of centers available to Ohioans, which would be especially harmful to vulnerable patients." The <u>Kidney Foundation of Ohio</u> is a patient advocacy group that has been providing a broad-based program of direct assistance to those with kidney disease since 1950.

To date, the organizations opposing the amendment include:

- Academy of Medicine of Cleveland and Northern Ohio
- · Chronic Disease Coalition
- Diabetes Dayton
- Dialysis Patient Citizens
- Global Healthy Living Foundation
- Kidney Care Council
- · Kidney Care Partners
- Kidney Foundation of Ohio
- National Renal Administrators Association

- Nonprofit Kidney Care Alliance
- · Ohio Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
- Ohio Osteopathic Association
- Ohio Renal Association
- Ohio Sickle Cell and Health Association
- · Ohio State Medical Association
- Renal Physicians Association
- Renal Support Network

Based on campaign finance filings, the California-based SEIU is believed to have hired hundreds of paid petition circulators, many from out-of-state, to gather signatures from Ohio voters. On Wednesday, July 4, the group submitted signatures to the Ohio Secretary of State in an attempt to qualify the issue for the November 6 Ohio statewide ballot. The petitions and signatures are now under review by elections officials.

"The SEIU has a long history of abusing the ballot issue process to advance its own political agenda," said coalition spokesperson Gene Pierce. "That its amendment would actually harm Ohio dialysis patients comes as no surprise to those familiar with the SEIU? 9s.strong-arm tactics."

Among the proposed Constitutional mandates are provisions directing the Ohio Department of Health to establish arbitrary revenue limits for Ohio clinics and require rebates to private health insurance companies should revenues exceed those arbitrary limits. The amendment excludes Medicare, Medicaid and other government payers — which cover nearly 90 percent of dialysis patients in Ohio — from receiving rebates, leaving only private health insurance companies able to receive them. The amendment does not require insurance companies to pass on any savings to patients.

Coalition members are concerned that arbitrary revenue limits will force some dialysis providers to consolidate operations or close locations, reducing access to critical dialysis care – particularly for patients in rural, urban, and underserved areas.

The non-partisan coalition is planning a statewide campaign to educate Ohio voters on the ballot issue's dangerous consequences, should the issue be placed on the ballot.

The estimated 18,000 Ohioans suffering from end stage renal disease (ESRD) typically receive lifepreserving dialysis treatments in a clinic three times a week, with each visit taking three to four hours. According to national research, missing even one dialysis treatment increases a patient's risk of death by 30 per cent. Find more information on ESRD in Ohio here.







PAID FOR BY OHIOANS AGAINST THE RECKLESS DIALYSIS AMENDMENT

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From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2018 8:00 PM

To: Snider, Grace

Subject: The Buckeye Institute Reacts to DeWine's Support of Medicaid Expansion

in Ohio



Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 11, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

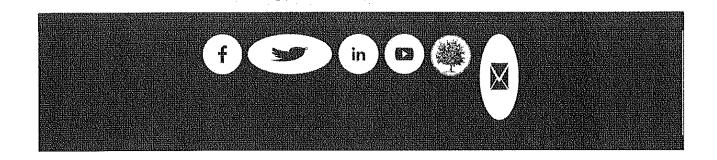
The Buckeye Institute Reacts to DeWine's Support of Medicaid Expansion in Ohio

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute responded to Attorney General Mike DeWine's **statement** that he now supports Medicaid expansion in Ohio, saying in a Tweet, "This is ill-advised."

###

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2018 7:01 AM

To: Snider, Grace

Subject: Medicare for All is a Poor Prescription for What Ails Health Care, By Greg

R. Lawson



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Medicare for All is a Poor Prescription for What Ails Health Care

By Greg R. Lawson July 11, 2018

Guaranteeing high quality health care at a cost that does not break the piggy bank is one of the great challenges confronting policymakers today. Everyone wants access to the best possible health care at the best possible prices. Obamacare was supposed to help. It did not. Now, an even more harmful idea is making the rounds among many politicians, **Medicare for All**.

The costs of implementing this system -- if anyone can determine how the system is to work in the first place -- will be astronomical, and is why advocates for the idea should level with the public about costs.

This program, popularized by Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, is a single-payer health care system, with taxpayers on the hook for costs. Already, several states, including Sen. Sanders' own Vermont, and California, have attempted such endeavors and have found that the easy promises and talking points fade into irrelevance when confronted with fiscal reality.

The projected state price tag for Vermont, with a population of only 620,000 people, is around \$2.6 billion. California's costs are much higher and are estimated to be around \$400 billion, of which \$50 to \$100 billion will be new spending. This would require

either a massive tax increase or major reductions to other state services such as education.

The cost for a national program would naturally be exponentially larger. Sen. Sanders himself estimated a 10-year cost of \$13.8 trillion (yes with a "T")! Other analyses found that to be a lowball estimate, with the **Urban Institute** (hardly a conservative organization) estimating an eye-popping increase of \$32 trillion in federal spending requiring ever more debt, tax increases, or cuts to other necessary programs.

Costs are not the only problem. By putting spending control in the hands of government bureaucrats, the program fails to allow consumers to look for the best services they and their family need. Just as bad, once the cost becomes too much, Medicare for All will lead to lower quality of care while stifling innovation.

Supporters of this tax-payer funded system should explain how they will pay for the program while not diminishing people's health care coverage and services, and how they will avoid stunting the innovation Americans expect in the health care marketplace. If they can't explain this, then they are merely playing to the political crowd and not offering real solutions to real challenges.

A better solution is to look to the states and focus on increasing access to a larger number-of health care providers that will help connect people to care while also driving down costs. There are many ways this can be achieved.

- Including different health care practitioners, such as nurses, to expand the care they are allowed to provide patients.
- Expand telemedicine to help improve outcomes by getting treatment to people quicker and at a lower cost
- Increase the use of **charity care** to treat economically disadvantaged people without thrusting them into a government run program.
- Embrace health care price transparency, that has been attempted (and stymied by special interests) in Ohio, which would tell consumers the real costs of the procedures they are considering. This would create a demand for better services at better prices.
- Adopt patent reforms that will facilitate a speedier path to market for highquality, less expensive, generic drugs.

The bottom line is there are better ways to help Ohioans, and all Americans, get the health care they need and deserve without imposing a one-size fits all, Washington, DC run program. Policymakers need to focus on finding real solutions, not making easy

promises that will put us deeper in debt and trap people in a system of low-quality health care.

Greg R. Lawson is the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.

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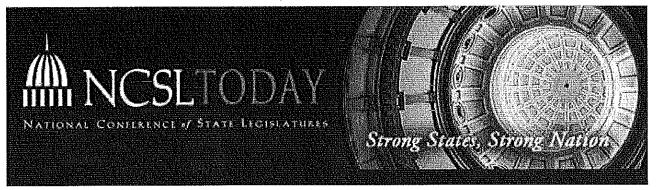
From: NCSL TODAY

Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2018 10:56 AM

To: Snider, Grace

Subject: Self-driving carmakers want Congress to free them from state safety standards

NCSL Today | Manage your subscription



TOP NEWS July 12, 2018

Self-driving carmakers want Congress to free them from state safety standards

The Los Angeles Times

As Silicon Valley and automakers attempt to steer the nation toward a future of driverless vehicles, a group of influential lawmakers remains concerned that bipartisan legislation now moving through Congress could leave consumers at risk by preventing states from demanding tighter safety regulations. **NCSL data cited.**

NCSL research on self-driving vehicle legislation.

Report: Hate crimes rise in California for third straight year

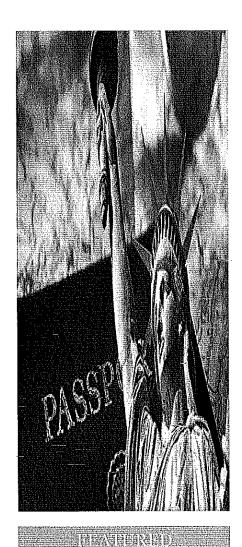
The Los Angeles Times

There were 1,093 reported hate crimes in California in 2017, a 17.4 percent increase, according to a report released Monday by the California attorney general's office. Hate crimes have increased annually since 2014, jumping roughly 44 percent in that three-year span, records show.

Alabama lawmakers consider outlawing leaving pets in hot car

AL.com

Alabama could see a new law against leaving pets in hot cars after overwhelming public outcry over the death of a dog in Trussville last week. And according to one of the state's highest-ranking lawmakers, that new law might also allow for the smashing of car windows to save a trapped animal.



U.S. immigration: A primer for state policy makers

This primer for policymakers is intended to provide a clear and concise introduction to current immigration and refugee policy, trends in state immigration legislation, and key studies that

U.S. targeted breastfeeding abroad. Here at home it's another story

Stateline

The U.S. position on a resolution to support breastfeeding counters domestic legislation.

Could Missouri's right-to-work vote be a 'turnaround' for labor?

Kansas City Star

As state after state adopts right-to-work laws, national unions are hoping Missouri is the "wall" that the policy's supporters can't get through. **NCSL data cited.**NCSL resources on right-to-work laws.

Unions could no longer get Medicaid money under new Trump proposal

Governing

The federal government wants to-roll back an Obama-era rule that lets some Medicaid payments go toward unions that represent home health care workers — one of the fastest-growing and lowest-paid jobs.

seek to assess fiscal and economic impacts of immigrants in the United States.



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Webinar July 17: Bill information service training

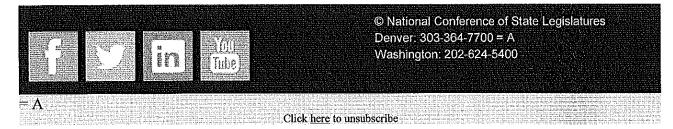
Webinar 2 p.m. (ET) TODAY: Suspension and expulsion in early years

Traffic safety trends - 2017 legislative action



Hawaii bans coralharming sunscreen

Hawaii just became the first state to ban sunscreens harmful to coral reefs.



7700 East First Place, Denver, CO 80230

From: Flasher, Kim

Sent: Friday, July 13, 2018 3:19 PM

To: House All

Subject: Legislative Conferences and Travel **Attachments:** Travel Request Form.docx

Memo to:

All House Members

From:

Speaker Ryan Smith

Date:

July 13, 2018

Re:

Legislative Conferences Annual Meetings

As you may know, the Ohio General Assembly pays dues to several National Legislative Conferences such as NCSL, CSG, and ALEC. As these organizations begin holding their annual meetings, several of you may be interested in attending.

In the past, the House has allowed a limited number of Members to attend with a set expenditure reimbursement from the State permitted. This year, the House will approve any Member who would like to attend ONE national meeting and will cover the conference registration fees. The Member is liable for all remaining expenses. Such expenses may be covered through personal or campaign funds.

It is advised that you consult with your caucus Legal Counsel before utilizing campaign funds toward any travel.

If you would like to register for one of the annual meetings, please complete the attached "Request for Travel Form" and return it to Kim Flasher in the Administrative Office.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Kim. Thank you.



TRAVEL REQUEST FORM

Traveler	Today's Date
	rence Itinerary and associated registration fees
for review.	
Conference	
Conference Location	
Date Conference Begins	Date Conference Ends

Request to travel approved: by:	Expenses to be reimbursed
Representatives Kim Flasher, Chief Administrative Officer	House of
Service Commission	Legislative
Date	

.

From: Ingram, Catherine

Sent: Friday, July 13, 2018 4:31 PM

To: Flasher, Kim; House All

Subject: Re: Legislative Conferences and Travel

Is this message in regard to only the annual meeting or does it also refer to any other event sponsored by said organizations?

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

----- Original message -----

From: "Flasher, Kim" < Kim. Flasher@ohiohouse.gov>

Date: 7/13/18 3:18 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: House_All < House_All@ohiohouse.gov > Subject: Legislative Conferences and Travel

Memo to:

All House Members

From:

Speaker Ryan Smith

Date:

July 13, 2018

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Kim. Thank you.

From: Flasher, Kim

Sent: Friday, July 13, 2018 9:53 PM

To: Ingram, Catherine

CC: House_All

Subject: Re: Legislative Conferences and Travel

Representative Ingram,

Thank you for the question. This applies to all travel.

Have a good weekend,

Kim

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 13, 2018, at 4:31 PM, Ingram, Catherine < Catherine.Ingram@ohiohouse.gov wrote:

Is this message in regard to only the annual meeting or does it also refer to any other event sponsored by said organizations?

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

----- Original message -----

From: "Flasher, Kim" < Kim.Flasher@ohiohouse.gov>

Date: 7/13/18 3:18 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: House_All < House_All@ohiohouse.gov > Subject: Legislative Conferences and Travel

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From: Westlake, Libby

Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 8:39 AM

To: Westlake, Libby

Subject: E-Clips for 12/20/2017

HOUSE E-CLIPS

12/20/2017

The Columbus Dispatch

Ohio's Greatest Online Newspaper

REPORT SUGGESTS STATE AGENCY ALREADY HAS VIOLATED NEW CONTRACTING POLICY

After The Dispatch revealed the Ohio Department of Administrative Services awarded \$15 million in unbid contracts to favored information-technology consultants, the agency promised to clean up its act.

NEW WHALEY AD PRAISES WORK, PROMISES JOBS

Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley has released a new internet ad touting the dignity of work as she seeks the Democratic nomination for governor.

Dayton Daily News

www.daytondailynews.com

LEHNER'S BILL AIMS TO CHANGE OHIO TEACHER EVALUATION SYSTEM

The Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) could see significant changes if a bill recently introduced by State Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) becomes law.

STATE SENATOR TO RUN FOR MIAMI COUNTY COMMISSION

State Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) today delcared his candidacy for a seat on the Miami County Commission.

THE ENQUIRER

'RIGHT TO WORK' IN OHIO? GOP LAWMAKER WANTS VOTERS TO CHOOSE

Undeterred by the acrimonious fight over Senate Bill 5, GOP Rep. John Becker wants voters to choose whether Ohio should become a right-to-work state.

From: Gongwer News Service

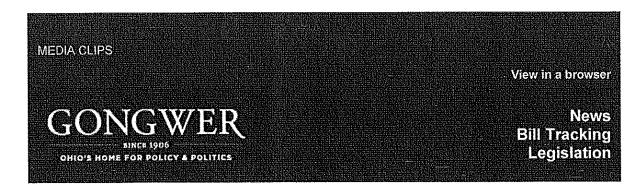
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 8:42 AM

To: Snider, Grace

Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Wednesday, December 20

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NEWS

Federal judge dismisses legal effort to stop gas pipeline (Associated Press, 12/20/2017)

Ohio attorney general not joining legal fight over net neutrality (Associated Press, 12/20/2017)

'Right to work' in Ohio? Becker wants voters to choose (Cincinnati Enquirer, 12/20/2017)

Your tax bill savings might not be as big as advertised. The economic development benefits might not be, either (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 12/20/2017)

New Whaley ad praises work, promises jobs (Columbus Dispatch, 12/20/2017)

Report suggests state agency already has violated new contracting policy (Columbus Dispatch, 12/20/2017)

Stivers announces net neutrality bill (Columbus Dispatch, 12/20/2017)

Tax revision almost law; one more vote left (Columbus Dispatch, 12/20/2017)

Lehner's bill aims to change Ohio teacher evaluation system (Dayton Daily News, 12/20/2017)

Report: Ohio cities facing fiscal stress despite improving economy (Dayton Daily News, 12/20/2017)

Senate passes GOP tax bill; House to revote Wednesday (Dayton Daily News, 12/20/2017)

EDITORIALS

Editorial: 2012 effort a dog of a law (Columbus Dispatch, 12/20/2017)

Editorial: Truth and news under assault (Columbus Dispatch, 12/20/2017)

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From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 11:22 AM

To: Snider, Grace

Subject: The Buckeye Institute Releases Economic Freedom of North America 2017

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE December 20, 2017

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute Releases Economic Freedom of North America 2017

Ohio Ranks 35th Among the 50 States in Economic Freedom

Columbus, OH — Ohio ranks 35th out of all 50 states in this year's *Economic Freedom of North America* report, released today by The Buckeye Institute in partnership with Canada's Fraser Institute. The report ranks every state and province in North America based on economic freedom as measured by government spending, taxation, and labor market restrictions.

"The news is mixed for Ohio. The state has moved up a few spots this year, mostly due to Governor John Kasich's tax reform efforts in 2015. Yet, overall Ohio still languishes in the bottom third of states and trails most of its neighbors," wrote Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive director of The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center and vice president of policy, in the report's forward. "Given this ranking, it is not surprising that the

state struggles to retain its workers and is not a destination for entrepreneurs seeking a new place to start a business."

Using date from 2015, the most recent year available, Ohio ranks 35th among the 50 states in economic freedom with a score of 6.7. That is up three places from 2016 when Ohio was ranked 38th and five places from 2015 when the state was ranked 40th. Included in the report is Buckeye's **Ohio Economic Freedom Fact Sheet**, which summarizes where Ohio ranks in various economic freedom policies and how it compares to neighboring states.

Ohio's Ranking in Key Areas

Government Spending - 41st

- Consumption spending as a percent of personal income 22nd
- Transfers and subsidies as a percent of personal income 23rd
- Insurance and retirement payments as a percent of personal income 47th
 Taxes 26th
 - Income and payroll tax revenue as a percent of personal income 27th
 - Top income tax threshold \$208,500
 - Property tax and other tax revenue as a percent of personal income 20th
 - Sales tax-revenue as a percent of personal income 34th

Labor Market Freedom - 30th

- Minimum wage-income as a percent of per capita personal income 36th
- Government employees as a percent of total employees 12th
- Union density as a percent of total employees 35th

The Fraser Institute has measured economic freedom in every state and province in the United States, Canada, and Mexico for 13 years, creating a comprehensive assessment of trends in economic freedom. The Buckeye Institute and its Economic Research Center copublished the report for the third year in a row.

The Fraser Institute and The Buckeye Institute are independent think tanks that research and advocate for free-market economic policies. The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center specializes in data analysis of state-level economic policies.

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The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street, Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Michalowski, Joe

Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2017 2:43 PM

To: Michalowski, Joe CC: Basie, Margaret

Subject: Becker & Riedel REVISED Co-sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work

Constitutional Amendments

Attachments: Becker & Riedel Co-sponsor Request- Six Right-to-Work

Constitutional Amendments.pdf

Importance: High

Representative Craig S. Riedel

has signed on to all six of these constitutional amendments as a joint sponsor with Rep. Becker.

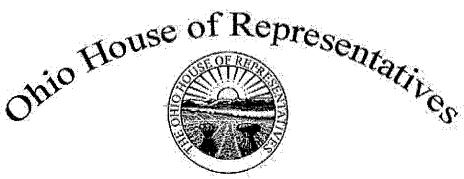
Each of the six amendments would appear on Ohio's general election ballot on November 3, 2020.

The current co-sponsors of all six are: Rep. Thompson, Rep. Brinkman, Rep. Dean, Rep. Keller, Rep. Roegner, and Rep. Zeltwanger. Rep. Lang is a co-sponsor on the following constitutional amendments: private-sector right-to-work (amendment #1); public-sector prevailing wage (amendment #3); and public-

sector project labor agreements (amendment #5).

Rep. Vitale is a co-sponsor on public-sector right-to-work (amendment #2).

Revised deadline to co-sponsor is TODAY at 5:00 PM. Please note which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor.



Representative John Becker Ohio's 65th House District

Representative Craig S. Riedel Ohio's 82nd House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members

From: Representative John Becker and Representative Craig S. Riedel

Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2017

RE: REVISED: Co-Sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

The following are six separate Right-to-Work related constitutional amendments in no particular sequence. Please join me in co-sponsoring one or more of the below:

- 1. Private-sector Right-to-Work No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Additionally, this will tell the world that Ohio is "open for business."
- 2. Public-sector Right-to-Work This is about freedom of association. Like for the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
- 3. Public-sector Prevailing Wage Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.
- 4. Public-sector Paycheck Protection This prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers' wages. Additionally, unions will be prohibited from spending workers' money on political activities without workers' consent.
- 5. Public-sector Project Labor Agreements This is the Michigan model approved by the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. State and local government entities will be prohibited from engaging in contracts that minimize competition for construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered. A level-playing field will be required.
- 6. Public-sector Union Recertification Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers' bargaining units. This will open up competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.

These proposals simply ask the General Assembly to put them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. Twenty-eight states and four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states have enacted Right-to-Work laws. Clearly, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment. Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Joe Michalowski at (614) 466-8134 or joe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov. Please indicate which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor. The deadline to co-sponsor is TODAY- Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 4:00 P.M.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.

Jd 2 Bak

Cs. Ril

John Becker State Representative 65th House District Craig S. Riedel
State Representative
82nd House District



Representative John Becker Ohio's 65th House District

Representative Craig S. Riedel Ohio's 82nd House District

MEMORANDUM

To:

GOP House Members

From: Representative

Representative John Becker and Representative Craig S. Riedel

Date:

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

RE:

REVISED Co-Sponsor Request: Six Right-to-Work Constitutional Amendments

The following are six separate Right-to-Work related constitutional amendments in no particular sequence. Please join me in co-sponsoring one-or more of the below:

- Private-sector Right-to-Work No worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment. Additionally, this will tell the world that Ohio is "open for business."
- Public-sector Right-to-Work This is about freedom of association. Like for the private sector, no worker should be required to subsidize a union as a condition of employment.
- Public-sector Prevailing Wage Repeals the requirement for taxpayers to pay artificially inflated wages, rather than those that are market-based.
- 4. Public-sector Paycheck Protection This prohibits state and local government employers from withholding union dues or fees from workers' wages. Additionally, unions will be prohibited from spending workers' money on political activities without workers' consent.
- 5. Public-sector Project Labor Agreements This is the Michigan model approved by the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. State and local government entities will be prohibited from engaging in contracts that minimize competition for construction projects by requiring that only union or non-union labor can be considered. A level playing field will be required.
- 6. Public-sector Union Recertification Requires annual reconsideration and recertification of workers' bargaining units. This will open up competition for new bargaining units, will give workers a chance to have their voices heard, and will make union leadership accountable to their membership.

These proposals simply ask the General Assembly to put them on the ballot for the people to vote on them individually. Twenty-eight states and four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states have enacted Right-to-Work laws. Clearly, the nation's future is for all workers to have the right to work free of the burden of mandated union payments as a condition of employment. Ohio is being left behind, and it is time for the people to decide Ohio's future.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Joe Michalowski at (614) 466-8134 or ioe.michalowski@ohiohouse.gov. Please indicate which constitutional amendment(s) you wish to co-sponsor. The deadline to co-sponsor is TODAY-Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at 4:00 P.M.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.

John Becker State Representative 65th House District Craig S. Riedel
State Representative
82nd House District

Cs. Ril

From: gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com on behalf of Gongwer News Service

[gongwerreports@gongwer-oh.com]

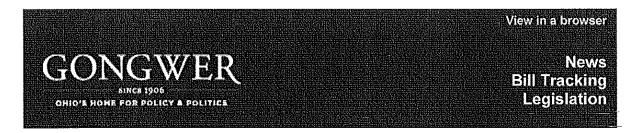
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HOUSE ACTIVITY REPORT

INTRODUCED

HJR 7

UNION MEMBERSHIP (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)

Proposing to enact Section 22 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit laws, rules, and agreements that require employees of public sector employers to join or pay dues to an employee organization and to prohibit employee organizations from representing nonmember public sector employees in employment-related matters.

HJR 8

UNION MEMBERSHIP (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)

Proposing to enact Section 22 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit laws, rules, and agreements that require employees of private sector employers to join or pay dues to an employee organization and to prohibit employee organizations from representing nonmember private sector employees in employment-related matters.

HJR 9

PREVAILING WAGE (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)

Proposing to enact Section 43 of Article II of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit a public authority from requiring a contractor on a public improvement to pay the contractor's workers the prevailing rate of wages for work performed on the public improvement.

HJR 10

PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)

Proposing to enact Section 2 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit certain requirements or prohibitions regarding labor agreements in government contracts.

HJR 11

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)

Proposing to enact Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to subject any public employee collective bargaining representative to an annual election to remain certified as the exclusive representative.

HJR 12

UNION DUES (Becker, J., Riedel, C.)

Proposing to enact Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio to prohibit dues and other fees payable to an employee organization

from being deducted from the payroll check of a public employee and to prohibit those dues and fees from being used for political purposes unless authorized by the public employee.

HB 454

CEMETERY LOTS (Patterson, J., Arndt, S.)

To require a township to compensate the owner of certain unused cemetery lots and rights which the township reenters after lack of response from the owner.

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SENATE ACTIVITY REPORT

INTRODUCED

SB 246

= A STUDENT REMOVAL (Lehner, P., Manning, G.)

To enact the "SAFE Act" to revise the procedures for emergency removal of a student, to prohibit certain suspensions and expulsions of students in grades pre-kindergarten through three, to require each public school to implement a positive behavior intervention and supports framework in accordance with state standards, and to make an appropriation.

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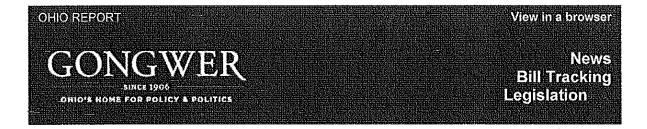
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OHIO REPORT THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

Speaker Tasks Universities With Engaging High Schoolers Impacted By Opiate Epidemic

Right-To-Work, Prevailing Wage Proposals Unveiled In House

Children Services Agencies See Growing Burden From Drug Crisis; Overdose Deaths Tallied

House Republican Announces Plan To Crack Down Drug Dealers

'Significant Update' On Belmont County Ethane Cracker Slated For 2018

Federal Judge Dismisses Property Owners' Lawsuit Against Nexus Pipeline

Groups Highlight Economic Impacts Of 'Dreamers' In Push To Restore DACA

High Court Green Lights Tax Board To Take Up \$500K NASCAR Appeal

Poll Finds Democrats With Big Lead In Generic Congressional Ballots; Bacon Touts Fundraising; Scott Officially Enters District 12 Race...

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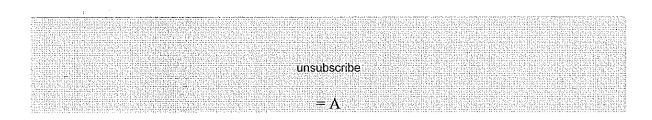
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Gongwer Coverage

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HB 454

CEMETERY LOTS (<u>Patterson</u>, <u>J.</u>, <u>Arndt</u>, <u>S.</u>) To require a township to compensate the owner of certain unused cemetery lots and rights which the township reenters after lack of response from the owner. Am. 517.073

17 S. High St., Suite 630 Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

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Senate Activity for Thursday, December 21, 2017

SB 246

STUDENT REMOVAL (<u>Lehner, P., Manning, G.</u>) To enact the "SAFE Act" to revise the procedures for emergency removal of a student, to prohibit certain suspensions and expulsions of students in grades pre-kindergarten through three, to require each public school to implement a positive behavior intervention and supports framework in accordance with state standards, and to make an appropriation. Am. 3302.03, 3313.534, 3313.66, 3313.661, 3313.668, and 3319.46 and to enact section 3319.237

17 S. High St., Suite 630 Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

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Daily Activity Planner for Friday, December 22 Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

No agency meetings scheduled.

Event Planner

No events scheduled.

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Volume #86, Report #245 -- Thursday, December 21, 2017 Speaker Tasks Universities With Engaging High Schoolers Impacted By Opiate Epidemic

University presidents are coming together to devise strategies for reaching out to youth impacted by the opiate epidemic.

They're doing so at the request of Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), who said he was recently inspired by a group of Waverly City Schools students impacted by addiction.

Many students in that district live with someone other than their parents and lack access to role models who can highlight life skills and opportunities to grow, he said in a recent column.



Speaker Rosenberger

Speaker Rosenberger said he believes universities can serve as the sources of those mentors.

"It's our communities who are going to help us in the drug epidemic, so how can we get college students to be those big brothers and sisters and give them some credit maybe for service-oriented things," he told reporters last week.

Another facet of his charge to universities is to consider how at-risk high school students can volunteer to earn credits toward college tuition, he said.

"Maybe they earn some credit or some dollars toward college credit so that they can have some ability to go out and do something," Speaker Rosenberger said.

Because reaching out to underserved populations dealing with the opiate crisis will be a priority for the legislature in 2018, he said he's eyeing legislation that would implement such mentorship and volunteer programs statewide. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 15, 2017)

University presidents began brainstorming immediately after meeting with the speaker earlier this month and will come back together in January to decide which ideas should be proposed, said Bruce Johnson, president of the Inter-University Council of Ohio.

Institutions have an essential role in the state's ongoing fight against opioids, he said, pointing to research that shows Ohioans with college degrees are 14 times less likely to die of overdoses than those who have only high school diplomas.

"One of the fundamental ways to attack opiate abuse in the state is to have a higher percentage of people in the state obtain a higher education," Mr. Johnson said.

"Students, particularly in hard-to-reach areas of the state, having mentors would help them manage their way through the difficulties and find their way to a public university," he added.

In areas of the state where the opiate epidemic has hit hardest, encouraging students to want to go to college is key because they often don't see higher education as a potential pathway, Mr. Johnson said.

"I think the thing that's really going to give students hope is a pathway which involves access to higher education," he said.

For that reason, it's possible the forthcoming plan will propose financial assistance for high school students who participate in a mentorship program and can show perseverance, Mr. Johnson said.

"Earning your way toward a college scholarship would be a great use of the state's resources," he said.

Any legislative proposals that come from the president's recommendations would be in addition to what universities are already doing on the opiate front, he said. Each university has undertaken initiatives to address the issue.

At Ohio University, low-income patients with substance abuse issues can receive free or low-cost treatment and drug dependent mothers-to-be are eligible for access to medication-assisted treatment programs, obstetrical care, social service benefits and other services. Similar services are provided at other university hospitals throughout the state.

Meanwhile, University of Akron is looking to help students who may be dealing with addiction by working with community agencies to develop supports and programming.

In the research realm, the University of Cincinnati recently received a \$1.5 million Third Frontier grant aimed at the epidemic. That total is in addition to \$32 million in research funding that's been awarded to the university to be put toward the cause.

Other universities are offering up their own dollars in an effort to find innovative solutions to the state's drug problem. The new Opioid Innovation Fund at Ohio State University will provide \$1 million in grants to public-private partnerships that develop programs or technologies to reduce the burden of the opiate crisis.

Right-To-Work, Prevailing Wage Proposals Unveiled in House

A slate of ballot proposals targeting labor laws was introduced Thursday in the House, drawing immediate pushback from one of the state's largest union groups.

The six joint resolutions from Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.) and Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) would ban mandatory union dues for both public and private employees, limit prevailing wage and make other changes guaranteed to spark protests among Ohio's unions.

If passed by lawmakers, the issues would be placed on the 2020 ballot for voters to weigh in, according to Rep. Becker. He said he chose the resolution route after his prior legislative efforts went nowhere.

"It has to do with making Ohio more competitive," Rep. Becker said in an interview. "Currently, Ohio is being left behind. Four out of five of Ohio's neighboring states are right to work. With 28 (right-to-work) states in the union, the trend is clearly in that direction."

Two of the resolutions (HJR 7 & HJR 8) would ban any laws, rules or agreements requiring public and private sector employees to join or pay union dues. They would also prohibit unions from representing non-members in employment-related matters.

Other resolutions would:

- Prevent a public authority from requiring a contractor on a public improvement project to pay workers the prevailing rate of wages (HJR 9).
- Forbid certain requirements or prohibitions regarding labor agreements in government contracts (HJR 10).
- Subject any public employee collective bargaining representative to an annual election to remain certified as the exclusive representative (HJR 11).
- Prohibit dues and other fees from being deducted from the payroll check of a public employee and prohibit those fees from being used for political purposes unless authorized by the employee (HJR 12).

Along with Messrs. Becker and Riedel, nine other representatives have signed on as cosponsors of one or more of the resolutions.

Rep. Becker said Republican leaders, House Speaker candidates and Republican gubernatorial candidates have all told him the same thing: If Ohio is to become a right-to-work state, it needs to be a decision driven by voters.

"They've all got this one consistent theme: the voters have to decide," Rep. Becker said. "I'm taking them at their word and saying fine, let's move forward with that. That's what these resolutions would do. They go on the ballot for people to decide."

Brad Miller, a spokesman for House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), said the speaker will review the proposals.

"The issue of right-to-work has been brought forward numerous times in recent years, and it always generates an important and interesting discussion amongst the caucus," Mr. Miller said. "Since Rep. Becker's resolution was introduced just today, Speaker Rosenberger will review the legislation and will seek input from caucus members before any potential future actions are determined."

Tim Burga, president of the Ohio AFL-CIO, said that neither employers nor employees in Ohio are seeking these changes.

"These proposals are a frontal assault on workers," Mr. Burga said. "It does three things: It takes away rights at work, it drives down wages, and it strips workers of their political beliefs. It's really policies that attack the foundation of what's been a catalyst to create Ohio's working class."

Ohio House Democrats will likewise fight the proposals should they gain traction, with Minority Leader Fred Strahorn (D-Dayton) calling them "dangerous, divisive bills."

"Taxpayers expect us to work together to increase opportunity and create jobs with wages and benefits that can sustain a family," Rep. Strahorn said. "These anti-worker, anti-family restrictions will do the exact opposite."

Opponents point to the public's rejection of 2011's Senate Bill 5 - in which voters voted 62-38% to repeal a law that limited collective bargaining for public employees - as evidence that Ohioans don't support such a move. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, November 8, 2011)

For that reason, Gov. John Kasich, commenting on prior right-to-work legislation from Rep. Becker and others, has said right-to-work is "not on my agenda."

But Rep. Becker contends that SB5 (129th General Assembly) wasn't truly a right-to-work bill was but more focused on strikes, benefits and union negotiations. In his view, voters haven't weighed in on the issue since 1958 when voters by a 63-36% margin rejected a right-to-work amendment.

Rep. Becker said he approached Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) and Rep. Larry Householder (R-Glenford) about supporting the resolutions but neither has signed on at this point as a cosponsor. Both men are vying to succeed Rep. Rosenberger as speaker.

But the sponsor said he believes the measures would have support in the caucus.

"In conversations with plenty of other colleagues beyond those nine (cosponsors) it's a whole lot of, 'We don't want to go on record with it' or 'we want to see which direction it goes,'" Rep. Becker said. "They just don't want to be in front of it right out of the gate. There's a lot of support, it's just not necessarily public."

Mr. Burga, though, said the proposals are a "political assault authored by out-of-state interests."

"It's never a good time to introduce bad policy but again this is an extreme measure without a constituency," Mr. Burga said. "I would say Ohioans deserve better than this. Just like on Senate Bill 5, we will fight these proposals and encourage legislators to work together to find common ground to create jobs and raise wages."

Children Services Agencies See Growing Burden From Drug Crisis; Overdose Deaths Tallied

The opiate epidemic continues to put a strain on Ohio's foster care system, with a thousand more kids expected to spend the holidays in foster care this year compared to 2016, a report released Thursday found.

The Public Children Services Association of Ohio said the drug problem is driving a dramatic surge in demand for foster care, with the number of children in agency custody rising from 12,654 in July 2013 to 15,145 last July.

At this-rate, the state would reach 20,000 kids in care by 2020, with the cost of placing them in foster homes and residential facilities rising to-more than \$500 million per year.

"We are sounding the alarm now - we need help," PCSAO Executive Director Angela Sausser said in a statement. "We need substantially more state resources before we lose the ability to provide essential services to vulnerable children."

The data indicate increasing rates of growth in the number of children in care, with the total rising from 15,145 on July 1 to more than 15,500 on Oct. 1.

The association pointed to some help it received from the legislature in the budget bill (HB 49), an additional \$15 million. Yet foster care placement costs have increased by about \$45 million since last year, not counting staffing or other agency services, the group said.

"Ohio needs a long-term solution to this crisis - and leadership to get us there before agency budgets collapse and our workforce jumps ship," Ms. Sausser said. "We already have a lack of available foster homes in Ohio. With the projected increases, we will have children sleeping in county agency lobbies with no available foster family to take them in."

Other state efforts include work by Attorney General Mike DeWine's office including a 14-county pilot project designed to help families affected by parental opioid abuse. (See

Gongwer Ohio Report, March 24, 2017) Another effort by the AG's office provides more funding for children services agencies to boost the number of foster families available. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 20, 2017)

Ms. Sausser pointed to work in California, where that state is realigning services along a continuum of care.

The increase in placements, she said, doesn't include the number of children placed with relatives.

"Placing abused and neglected children with kin leads to better long-term outcomes and is far less costly to government, but it means that grandparents on fixed incomes and aunts with kids of their own must find a way to pay for food, clothes, child care and other expenses," she said. "The legislature stepped up again and provided \$15 million a year in federal funds to create child care assistance for kinship families. However, that program has been delayed."

Overdose Totals: In a related development, new data released by the federal government show Ohio with the second-highest rate of drug overdose deaths in the country at 39.1 per 100,000 in 2016.

The numbers released by the National Center for Health Statistics showed Ohio with 4,329 overdose deaths last year, up from the 4,050 reported by the Department of Health in August. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 30, 2017)-

Ohio's overdose total was exceeded only by those of Pennsylvania, California-and Florida.

In terms of the death rate, Ohio's 39.1 per 100,000 ranked behind only West Virginia, which had a rate of 52. New Hampshire was at 39.0, the District of Columbia at 38.8 and Pennsylvania at 37.9.

National totals showed a continued increase in deaths from heroin and other opioids, coupled with a dramatic surge in the number of deaths from synthetic opioids other than methadone. Those deaths totaled 3,105, or 1 per 100,000, in 2013, but rose to more than 19,000, or a rate of 6.2, in 2016.

House Republican Announces Plan To Crack Down Drug Dealers

Drug dealers in Ohio could face much stiffer penalties under a proposal unveiled Thursday.

Rep. Scott Wiggam (R-Wooster) announced plans to introduce legislation that would boost trafficking charges for all Schedule I and Schedule II substances, with the exception of marijuana, to a minimum third-degree-felony that carries a mandatory prison term.



Scott Wiggam

"No longer will drug dealers be able to operate in this state with little fear for the law," Rep. Wiggam said during a Statehouse news conference.

While the lawmaker praised the state's effort to combat the drug epidemic, including \$180 million in the two-year budget (HB 49), he said deterrence and accountability are missing, and hopes his bill will provide those two components to the fight.

Over the past four years, he said, overdose deaths have skyrocketed by 212%, while traffickers going to prison fell by 4% over that same time period.

"Ohio's law is too weak to deter drug traffickers from continuing to flood our streets with their products," he said. "Law enforcement officers have grown weary and demoralized from arresting the same criminals for drug trafficking only to see them released into our society with little more than a slap on the-wrist."

Wayne County Prosecutor Dan Lutz voiced that frustration. He said a trafficker in his county was recently arrested after knowingly selling heroin mixed with fentanyl that led to a user's overdose death. Among the charges his office brought was involuntary manslaughter, which was later amended to reckless homicide.

Nonetheless, Mr. Lutz said the judge in the case was not pleased with the man being charged for the death of the user and told defense counsel to seek a bench trial, which they did. The individual was eventually found guilty of a single drug trafficking charge.

"Amazingly, he sentenced him to only probation," Mr. Lutz said, adding the man went right back to selling heroin.

The bill will not differentiate between those who are trafficking large amounts of drugs for profit and those who are selling small amounts to support a habit. Mr. Lutz said both are killing people by selling deadly drugs.

"We want to deter that," he said. "We want to make it too costly to do that."

Despite the bill treating addicts and large-scale traffickers the same, Rep. Wiggam said it does not take away from changes in law in recent years that have sought to treat those two groups of individuals differently in the criminal justice system.

"If you are an addict and you are selling, you are still engaged in selling," he said.

As for the impact on the state's prison population, Rep. Wiggam said he is unsure exactly how his legislation will impact the numbers. He added that the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction has yet to take a position on the bill.

But Mr. Lutz said when discussing the state's prison population, the cost-benefit analysis does not take into account the cost savings from not having people on the streets "wreaking havoc."

"Some people need to be locked up in prisons, and these are those people," he said.

Asked about the philosophy of some in the law enforcement community, including Attorney General Mike DeWine, who has repeatedly said the state cannot "arrest its way out" of the drug problem, Mr. Lutz said that attitude needs to change.

"We've got to prevent people from getting on this stuff in the first place," he said.

Mike Brem, president of the Ohio Task Force Commanders Association, likened the battle against opioids to the fight against crack.

"We feel this penalty increase will deter drug traffickers as it did the same way with the crack epidemic in the 80's," he said.

The legislation, dubbed the "Drug Trafficking Deterrence Act," has 18 co-sponsors, according to Rep. Wiggam.

The bill also has the backing of the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association, the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association, the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and the OTFCA, Rep. Wiggam said.

'Significant Update' On Belmont County Ethane Cracker Slated For 2018

A Thai petrochemical company now says it will have news on whether it plans to move forward with a proposed world-class ethane cracker plant sometime after the new year.

PTT Global, Gov. John Kasich and JobsOhio leaders in 2015 announced at a Statehouse press conference that the company - Thailand's largest petrochemical and refining company - was eyeing Belmont County for the \$6 billion plant. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 22, 2015)

A final investment decision was initially expected in 2016 but was then pushed to 2017. Last February, the company announced it would postpone a final decision until late 2017 but with January drawing near the lack of recent news has kept locals hoping for an announcement in suspense. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 17, 2017)

On Thursday, the company foreshadowed a "significant update" sometime early next year.

"PTTGC America will have a significant update that will demonstrate momentum for this project early in 2018," the company said. "We thank all Ohio and Belmont County partners for their support, and we wish you a happy holiday season."

The last news of the project came in October, when JobsOhio and PTT representatives met in Washington D.C. to ink a memorandum of understanding. In the MOU, the parties agreed to establish a community infrastructure development plan after a final investment decision has been reached. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 6, 2017)

Asked about the project's status, JobsOhio spokesman Matt Englehart said talks are ongoing.

"While a final investment decision has not yet been made, PTTGCA continues to collaborate with JobsOhio and local partners while investing time and resources to move this project forward," he said.

JobsOhio and the Kasich administration have touted the potential project as a boon for region that will draw in jobs and economic revitalization.

The company had committed to a \$100 million investment as it considers the move and earlier this year purchased 168 acres from FirstEnergy for the site to the tune of \$13.8 million.

Despite that, the potential development of similar plants in nearby West Virginia and Pennsylvania subsequent to PTT's 2015 announcement has sparked speculation from those not involved in the talks regarding the Belmont County project's future.

Federal Judge Dismisses Property Owners' Lawsuit Against Nexus Pipeline

A federal district court judge has tossed out a lawsuit from dozens of Ohio property owners seeking to halt work on the Nexus Pipeline.

But it's hardly the only lawsuit targeting the construction of the \$2 billion, 255-mile natural gas pipeline that's yet to be resolved.

In May, 39 households - comprising 65 individuals - sued the company and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in an effort to halt the project.

The property owners said the company is improperly using eminent domain and argued FERC has failed to provide adequate information to homeowners regarding their options. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 15, 2017)

A magistrate in August issued a recommendation that the court deny plaintiffs' motion, opining that without formal FERC approval the court lacks adequate jurisdiction. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 8, 2017)

Weeks later, FERC approved the project, which Nexus argued in court filings made the lawsuit moot. Construction was then authorized to begin in October after several preconstruction conditions were met. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, October 13, 2017)

Judge John Adams agreed with the magistrate and his ruling this week from the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio adopts the magistrate's prior recommendation in its entirety.

Plaintiffs may now appeal to the U.S. Sixth Circuit court of Appeals. That's the same court that late last month voted 2-1 to stay construction on an eight-mile stretch of the pipeline through the city of Green. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, November 27, 2017)

Green is one of several localities - with others including Oberlin, Bowling Green and Medina - that have protested the project.

Green's lawsuit argues the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency granted the project a 401 certification improperly because the agency was not provided with practicable alternative routes with a smaller adverse environmental impact.

Sierra Club had also sued FERC over the pipeline's status, pressing D.C. circuit court to require FERC to rehear the case. But the group was forced to petition for the case to be dismissed after the landowner at the heart of the complaint agreed to sell land to Nexus for the project.

Groups Highlight Economic Impacts Of 'Dreamers' In Push To Restore DACA

If Congress doesn't act to continue the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, Ohio could lose out on as much as \$12 million per year in tax revenue, according to a new report.

That total is how much the 9,000 Ohioans who are eligible for the program are currently paying in taxes, Policy Matters Ohio reported Thursday. All would be lost, however, if the protections for immigrants who are working and attending school are eliminated and those so-called Dreamers are deported.

If those same individuals stay in the state without DACA, many would likely take on lower-wage jobs, resulting in an estimated \$5 million tax revenue loss, the think tank said. About 4,000 Ohioans are actually participating in the program.

"Allowing DACA protections to expire would really hurt Ohio but passage of a Dream Act could boost out long-term economic output," Daniel Ortiz, outreach coordinator for Policy Matters Ohio, said in a conference call with reporters.

If Congress acts to reauthorize the program that was nixed by the Trump Administration in September, the state's gross domestic product could see a long-term annual impact of \$92 million, Mr. Ortiz said, citing Center for American Progress estimates.

Ohio's GDP could increase by more than \$300 million annually if half the eligible Dreamers earn college degrees to obtain permanent residence, he said.

"The Dream Act would put these young immigrants on a path to pay their taxes like everyone else and really could facilitate open participation in our communities," Mr. Ortiz said.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland) has said he's working with Republicans on a bill that would continue-protections for the children of illegal immigrants, however those who are impacted by and supportive of the program say Congress can't move quick enough. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 20, 2017)

If a continuation or replacement isn't approved by March 5, as many as 1,200 Dreamers per day throughout the country will see their DACA authorizations expire, Mr. Ortiz said. Under the administration's plan, those who are currently part of the program will be sheltered until their permits expire or up to two years, whichever comes first.

Elvis Saldias, a DACA recipient who lives in Columbus, said his permit expires in about six months and he's not legally permitted to continue working as a property claims adjustor if his authorization lapses by even one day.

The recent Ohio State University graduate who came to America from Boliva more than 15 years ago said he would also no longer be able to continue mentoring the state's youngest immigrants attending Columbus Global Academy.

"I need to continue doing what I'm doing," he said, adding: "I can't imagine the urgency behind those (whose authorizations) have already expired."

Mr. Saldias told reporters the DACA application process, which includes an extensive background check, takes about five months from start to finish - another reason legislation needs passed as soon as possible.

"If they pass a bill today, it doesn't mean we're going to get our renewed DACA...in the mail;" he said.

Lynn Tramonte, Director of America's Voice Ohio, called the DACA rescission a crisis, saying Congress can't wait until it's up against the March deadline to make a decision.

"The deadline was September," when the administration stalled the program, she said on the conference call. "People became ineligible suddenly overnight and were unable to apply. Those qualified for renewal were cut off. It's a crisis and...it has really impacts on everybody's lives."

Calls for quick action are growing louder for DACA to be Congress's next order of business now that it's finalized a tax overhaul and appears headed for a Friday vote on another stop-gap funding bill to prevent a government shutdown.

On Wednesday, Gov. John Kasich joined 10 other governors in asking Congress to quickly find a bipartisan solution to the issue. About 800 colleges and universities in the country, including a handful from Ohio, have also pressed for a resolution. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 20, 2017)

U.S. Sen. Portman (R-Terrace Park) has said there is an interest in reinstating DACA into permanent law, but it may come with some parameters, such as a workforce enforcement program.

The Federation for American Immigration Reform, which backed President Trump's longtime plan to end the program and leave its future up to Congress, has also said DACA's recession opens to the door to create a larger immigration strategy that could include building a southern border wall and defunding sanctuary cities.

"Congress should seize this opportunity to come together and forge these much-needed reforms in our nation's immigration policy," the group said in a statement.

High Court Green Lights Tax Board To Take Up \$500K NASCAR Appeal

The Board of Tax Appeals erred in dismissing an appeal filed by NASCAR, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled Thursday.

In a 6-1 per curiam decision, the court sided with the Florida-based company by finding that the BTA has jurisdiction to hear an appeal even when the notice is filed by an individual not licensed to practice law in Ohio on behalf of a taxpayer with authorization.

The decision hinged on a 1980 ruling in *Jemo Assoc., Inc. v. Lindley* in which the court found that any authorized agent may file an appeal on behalf of a taxpayer, even if doing so amounts to the unauthorized practice of law, the court's media arm reported.

After conducting an audit for tax years 2005 to 2010, the Department of Taxation in 2012 determined NASCAR failed to pay the Commercial Activity Tax for broadcasting its product in Ohio.

The company was assessed \$549,520, but filed a petition for reassessment with the tax commissioner, who affirmed the finding.

NASCAR then took its case to the BTA. But because its notice of appeal was filed by a Florida attorney not licensed to practice in Ohio, the BTA dismissed the case.

The high court, however, found that the BTA was wrong to do so.

"In this case, there appears to be no dispute that NASCAR authorized Bowen to file the notice of appeal to the BTA," the court wrote in its decision. "So under (state law) and *Jemo*, the notice of appeal filed by Bowen properly invoked the BTA's jurisdiction. Therefore, the BTA erred in dismissing NASCAR's appeal for lack of jurisdiction."

Justice Patrick Fischer was the lone dissenting voice in the case. He cited the 1997 high court case of Sharon Village Ltd. V Licking Cty. Bd. of Revision. In that case the court found that non-attorneys cannot file property value complaints on behalf of corporate taxpayers.

"I would hold that barring a statutory exception, when an appeal to the BTA is filed by a non-attorney, the non-attorney has engaged in the unauthorized practice of law-and the BTA does not, therefore, have jurisdiction to hear the appeal," he wrote. "The nonbinding plurality opinion in *Jemo* does not conclude otherwise, and even if it could be read to do so, in light of *Sharon Village*, it has been superseded. For these reasons, it was neither unreasonable nor unlawful for the BTA to follow *Sharon Village* and its progeny and to not follow *Jemo*."

Poll Finds Democrats With Big Lead In Generic Congressional Ballots; Bacon Touts Fundraising; Scott Officially Enters District 12 Race...

A new poll released jointly Thursday by Morning Consult and POLITICO has ominous signs for Republicans heading into 2018.

The poll found that Democrats hold a 10-point lead over Republicans on generic midterm ballots, with 44% respondents indicating they would vote for a Democrat in November compared with 34% who said the same about a Republican.

That is an increase from the prior week when 41% of respondents said they would vote for the Democratic candidate. Republicans polled at 36% last week.

The poll also recorded the highest "wrong direction" mark since mid-October, with 63% of respondents saying they believe the country is headed in the wrong direction.

Another finding was that Republicans may be on the wrong side of the net neutrality debate, with 49% saying that repeal was the wrong decision and just 21% saying it was the right decision.

One of the few bright spots for Republicans in the poll is that enthusiasm is higher on their side, with 64% saying they are motivated to vote in 2018, compared to 56% of Democrats.

Fundraising Numbers: Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) took to Twitter Thursday to tout fundraising numbers for his bid to replace U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi (R-Galena).

"Great fundraising results this week! We have \$120,000.00 in commitments and we begin collecting them Jan 2," he wrote.

Scott Announcement: On the Democratic of the 12th Congressional District Race, former Franklin County Sheriff Zach Scott formally announced his candidacy for the seat.

"I'm proud of the service and peace of mind I have provided to victims and their families over the past thirty years. Making communities safer by putting dangerous criminals behind bars while helping countless nonviolent offenders get their lives back on track hasn't just been my job - it's been my passion," he said.

"Now I'm going to take that same passion to Congress, where I will get laws passed that put our families and our communities first. Unfortunately, we have all seen too many Washington politicians who are more concerned with serving themselves than serving the public. All too often, Congress caters to powerful special interest groups while the pressing needs of everyday working families fall through the cracks."

Opioid Crisis: In light of a lawsuit filed against the pharmaceutical industry by Summit County and a report showing overdose deaths in Ohio increased by 24% in 2016, Rep. Tavia Galonski (D-Akron) called on drug manufacturers to take responsibility for their role in the opioid epidemic.

"Ohio's opioid epidemic is the result of a myriad of issues," she said. "The key players need to be held accountable and unfortunately, one of the largest is the pharmaceutical industry. By not being clear about the addictive properties of opioids, they have put Ohioans at risk for addiction. I believe this lawsuit is an excellent response to help hard working families needing a helping hand."

17 S. High St., Suite 630 Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

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Buckeye's Rea Hederman: Ohio's Employment Report was Naughty and Nice

Columbus, OH - Rea S. Hederman Jr., executive director of the Economic Research Center at The Buckeye Institute and vice president of policy, commented on newly released unemployment data from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

"In the last report of the year, the Ohio employment report was naughty and nice. The nice part was the unemployment rate falling three-tenths to 4.8 percent, a stable decline even as labor force participation grew. This indicates that the economy is growing fast enough to provide employment opportunities to willing workers.

"The naughty part is the payroll survey reported a decline of 3,300 private-sector jobs. The primary culprit was a sharp decline in retail trade (-6,400) as commerce continues to move online, which sparked an increase in transportation jobs (2,300).

"The numbers: The unemployment rate in Ohio fell to 4.8 percent from 5.1 percent. This is still greater than the national average of 4.1 percent. Ohioans are slightly more likely to be in the labor force (62.8 percent) than the national average (62.7 percent). The total number of job opportunities declined by 5,600 with 3,300 losses in the aviate sector. Manufacturing added jobs (2,500), while the service sector declined (5,600)."

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NEWS

Lawmakers push right-to-work for 2020 ballot (Akron Beacon Journal, 1/3/2018)

Democrat in Ohio governor's race picks running mate: (Associated Press, 1/3/2018)

Ohioans can apply for amnesty to settle unreported tax debts: (Associated Press, 1/3/2018)

Ohio's child support system: Everyone agrees it's broken. But a fix has taken 25 years – and counting. (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/3/2018)

Ohio's move to toss inactive voters from rolls goes to court (Cincinnati Enquirer, 1/3/2018)

Joe Schiavoni picks state board of education member as running mate (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/3/2018)

Medical device tax is back; industry seeks repeal (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/3/2018)

19-year-old takes office as city council member in eastern Ohio (Columbus Dispatch, 1/3/2018)

Governor's race Q and A | Mary Taylor (Columbus Dispatch, 1/3/2018)

Joe Schiavoni picks Stephanie Dodd as running mate (Columbus Dispatch, 1/3/2018)

Ohio Supreme Court wants state's execution-drug records (Columbus Dispatch, 1/3/2018)

From pizza delivery robots, to boozy ice cream, a look at new Ohio laws (Dayton Daily News, 1/3/2018)

On Twitter, President Trump comes out swinging in 2018 (Dayton Daily News, 1/3/2018)

2018 could be a busy ballot year in Ohio (Toledo Blade, 1/3/2018)

EDITORIALS

Editorial: 2012 effort a dog of a law (Canton Repository, 1/3/2018)

Ohio lawmakers should keep the seriously mentally ill off Death Row: editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 1/3/2018)

Senators working to turn tide of drug epidemic (Toledo Blade, 1/3/2018)

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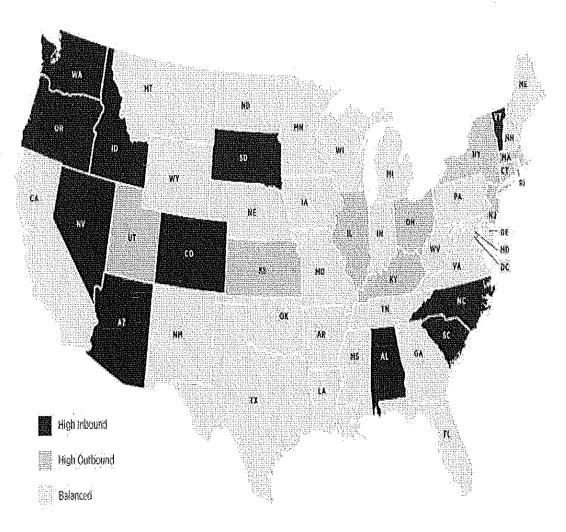
By Greg R. Lawson January 8, 2018

According to United Van Lines **2017 National Movers Study**, Ohio ranked number 7 nationally for the most out of state moves. And an **Atlas** report shows that for the 10th consecutive year more people are moving out of Ohio than into Ohio.

Ohio is literally moving in the wrong direction!

United Van Lines 2017 Movers Study







While we have come to expect this reality, it is a trend Ohio should not just accept and illustrates why Ohio needs better policies that will grow the economy and increase jobs.

According to economist and UCLA professor Michael Stoll,

"This year's data reflects longer-term trends of movement to the western and southern states, especially to those where housing costs are relatively lower, climates are more temperate, and job growth has been at or above the national average, among other factors."

This should not be surprising. Ohio's job growth has typically been below the national average in both good and bad times for much of the past half century. While the state has certainly climbed out of the deep job loss pit it fell into during the Great Recession, it still has yet to fully recover.

While Ohio's policymakers have made commendable efforts to improve the job climate through tax and regulatory reform, there is much work that remains, and there are multiple areas where policymakers should focus their attention in an effort to improve Ohio business climate.

Embracing reforms in each of these areas will create a better environment for job growth.

First, Ohio remains a state without full worker freedom unlike 4 of our 5 neighbors (Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and West Virginia).

Second, Ohio remains home to one of the most complicated **local government** structures of any state while having the single worst local tax in America — the municipal income tax. These complexities make it difficult for smaller businesses to grow, the kind of growth that leads to more jobs for Ohioans.

Finally, Ohio-needs-to reduce the ridiculous burden of over the top occupational licensing while making a commitment to stop adding additional licenses to new jobs. Our recent report, Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce, highlights the dire impact such licensing has lower-income and minority Ohioans as well as on the ability of workers, in general, to move for new job opportunities.

With reforms in these three key areas, we can grow our economy, increase job creation, and turn the moving vans around and bring people back to Ohio.

Greg R. Lawson is the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.

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